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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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'AG should be asked about Saipan casino bill.' PAGE 2
NMC's School of Education director wins ICT award. PAGE 15

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, what's your level of confidence in the Board of Regents' choice of Dr. Christa Adams as the next NMC president?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Powerful storms roar through middle America again on Wednesday.
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Yemen's embattled President Ali Abdullah Saleh vows he would not step down.
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New 'Idol'
Scotty McCreery wins the "American Idol" battle of the fresh-faced country crooners.
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Relatives believe two girls abducted

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI community was jolted yesterday with news of two girls who went missing Wednesday morning as they waited for a school bus near their residence in As Teo.

A Commonwealth-wide Amber Alert was issued for Faloma Luhk, 10, and Meleina Luhk, 9, who relatives believe may have been abducted as they waited for their bus to Kagman Elementary School.

TO REPORT A TIP
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Faloma Luhk | Meleina Luhk

Police officers combed the As Teo area yesterday for the two girls, while family members, relatives, and friends helped police in putting up flyers with the girls' pictures all over the island.

"This is the first time in CNMI history for children to be kidnapped or abducted from a bus stop," according to Anicia Tomokane, the girls' aunt.

NMI Crime Stoppers Program coordinator Jason Tarkong said the girls reside with their grandparents—Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Quitugua in Santa Lourdes, As

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It's official: Hart is new NMC president

» New chief executive officer to assume post July 5

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Members of the NMC Board of Regents listen to regent Frank Rabauliman who participated in yesterday's board meeting via teleconference.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Board of Regents officially named Dr. Sharon Hart as the next president of the Northern Marianas College during a tense board meeting yesterday that saw the attendance of over 50 individuals, mostly faculty and college employees.

Hart, the board's second top pick, had asked for the board's reconsideration in a letter to the college on May 5—a few days prior to the reconsideration request sent last May 9 by top candidate Dr. Christa Adams, who recently rejected the offer after almost three weeks of negotiation.

Board chair Juan T. Lizama signed yesterday a two-year contract for the new president effective July 5 in the presence of vice chair Elaine Orilla and board counsel Jesus Borja. Lizama said

See HART on Page 4

10-cent rollback on gas prices

» Motorists want further price cuts

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A Shell service station displays its new gas prices, after a 10-cent price reduction yesterday.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan motorists heaved a sigh of relief after Mobil Oil Marianas and Shell Marianas rolled back their gas prices at the pump yesterday, although many believe the 10-cent cut should be higher.

Despite the rollback, Saipan's gas prices are still among the highest in the U.S. and its territories. Crude oil prices have been falling in the last few weeks; it is now below $99 a barrel.

Mobil's price rollback came in the

See ROLLBACK on Page 4

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Local

'Ask AG about Saipan casino bill'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said yesterday that Attorney General Edward Buckingham or his designee from the Office of the Attorney General, as well as constitutional experts, should be called in at the public hearing on a bill legalizing casino gambling on Saipan.

The public hearings will be from May 31 to June 13.

Benavente said the list of those asked to testify at the public hearing does not include individuals who would be able to share their knowledge and answer questions related to the constitutionality of House Local Bill 17-44.

"Addressing concerns about the constitutionality of the bill should be the priority. We need to hear legal opinion from the AG. Asking the *man'amko* or SHEFA or medical referral, for example, should come second, as recipients of casino revenues. The priority is to hear from legal experts and constitutional experts on whether the bill is constitutional, or not," he said.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which will conduct the public hearings jointly with the Ways and Means Committee, said he has confidence in the two House legal counsels who reviewed the bill and issued a legal opinion about its constitutionality.

House counsels Joe Taijeron and John Cool, in their legal opinion, said the local bill, if signed into law, "should withstand legal scrutiny." They concluded that Article 21 and Article 2 Section 6 of the Constitution independently demonstrate that HLB 17-44 "is a legal and proper Act under the laws of the Commonwealth."

Palacios also cited a legal opinion from the House counsels, contradicting a legal opinion from the AG on the fiscal year 2011 budget law.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), author of the casino bill, said the list of those invited to testify already include the "Office of the Governor and Executive Departments and Agencies," which he said include the AG's Office.

Torres also said that once the bill passes the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, it goes to the governor's office where it will be reviewed by the attorney general, among other entities.

Others invited to testify are the Saipan and Northern Islands mayors, members of the Saipan Municipal Council, the NMI Retirement Fund, the Commonwealth Retirees Association, the SHEFA board, medical referral director, the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Man'amko Center and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Entities like SHEFA, Medical Referral Office and the NMI Retirement Fund will be among the recipients of portions of revenue from Saipan casino operations.

The first in the series of public hearings on the Saipan casino bill will be held on Tuesday, May 31, at the CNMI Legislature on Capital Hill starting at 6pm.

Reksid to present psychologist for defense

Franz B. Reksid, a former official of the Department of Public Lands who is facing wire fraud and bribery charges, has notified the federal court of his intent to use a psychologist for his defense.

Attorney Mark B. Hanson informed the court of his client Reksid's intent to introduce expert evidence, possibly relating to a mental condition of Reksid that may have a bearing on the issue of his guilt.

"Specifically, Mr. Reksid intends to introduce evidence from a psychologist regarding the psychology of advance fee frauds and how particular vulnerabilities of individuals based on age, education, language, culture, and other factors create 'vulnerable victims' or 'perfect marks' which 'advance fee schemes' affect said individuals' belief systems and affect an alleged criminal's intent to defraud other individuals as a result of the 'marks' involvement in such schemes," Hanson said.

The 70-year-old Reksid has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

The indictment alleged that from January 2009 to August 2009, Reksid, a then DPL special assistant to the secretary, borrowed over $300,000 from friends, associates, and relatives and wired part of the money to Ivory Coast and Nigeria. The defendant also allegedly solicited $3,000 from the owner of a business that was seeking to obtain a contract with DPL. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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'Dislike of OAG's policies not enough basis to withdraw guilty plea'

Kagman rape case suspect Angel Jess Santos failed to realize that his dislike of the government's policies is not an adequate basis for withdrawing his guilty plea, according to Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman.

In a written order denying Santos' motion to withdraw his guilty plea, Wiseman said neither he nor any other judge has the authority to control who the government selects to prosecute.

"The same suit with defense counsel. Such authority is vested strictly in the Executive Branch," he said.

The judge said it is quite bold for Santos to seek to withdraw his plea simply because the Office of the Attorney General has made a decision whether or not to pursue a case against the other three co-defendants: Joseph Camacho Jr., Alfred P. Hocog, and Ivan Jones Castro.

Such decisions, Wiseman pointed out, are the prerogative of the Executive Branch through the OAG.

Wiseman said Santos' repeated attacks and criticisms on and of the OAG, through his written and oral arguments, have no basis or merit with respect to providing any legally recognizable grounds for a withdrawal of a guilty plea.

On Tuesday, Wiseman orally denied Santos' bid to withdraw his guilty plea and set the sentencing for June 7, 2011.

Santos' lawyer, attorney Joseph James Norita Camacho, had said that if Santos had known that the government will dismiss the cases against his co-defendants, he would probably not have entered his plea.

Wiseman expressed a "major concern," however, with respect to a defense counsel in a criminal case "erroneously and recklessly" relying on the Rules of Civil Procedure, which are totally inapplicable in a criminal case, and then to use such erroneous basis for wrongfully attacking the government for "flouting the rules."

"Attorneys practicing before this court would be well advised to refresh themselves on the obligations they have to the court and to the bar when filing documents under their signature in court," the judge noted.

Attorney Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing that they respect the court's ruling.

"We will prepare Angel and his family to give support and perhaps written testimony to ask mercy from the court," Camacho said.

Santos and his co-defendants were accused of abducting a then 16-year-old student in June last year in Kagman and then raping her at Tank Beach. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Case vs 3 aliens who tried to enter Guam from Saipan by boat dismissed

The federal court yesterday dismissed the information that charged three persons who were among several Chinese nationals who attempted to travel by boat from Saipan to Guam last year.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Consuelo B. Marshall ordered the dismissal of the charges against Yong Jun Li, Wei Kun Zhong, and Shi Guang Li.

Marshall issued such order after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit remanded the cases against the three to the U.S. District Court for the NMI with instructions that each information be dismissed.

The defendants had been charged with violating a law that makes it a criminal offense for an alien to enter or attempt to enter the United States at a place other than designated by immigration officers.

Yong Jun Li and Wei Kun Zhong entered conditional pleas of guilty. Shu Guang Li was convicted after a bench trial. Each defendant was sentenced to one year of probation.

The defendants, through their counsels, had sought to dismiss the charges, arguing that an alien traveling from Saipan to Guam at a time or place not designated by immigration officers is not a criminal offense because the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (federalization law) had made the CNMI part of the United States.

The federal court denied the motions. The defendants appealed.

Last May 4, the Ninth Circuit reversed the conviction of the defendants. The Ninth Circuit ruled that the CNMI is part of the U.S. for purposes of U.S. immigration law.

The Ninth Circuit said since both the CNMI and Guam are parts of the U.S., an alien does not "enter" the U.S. when traveling from one part of the U.S. to another, even if when doing so he or she passed through international waters. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

RELATIVES

From Page 1

Teo.

Tarkong said the grandparents learned that the girls went missing when they did not return home after school around 3:30pm Wednesday.

The girls were last seen Wednesday at 6am as they were leaving their house in As Teo on their way to a bus stop. Faloma Luhk was last seen wearing a white blouse, a pair of blue jeans, while Meleina Luhk was last seen wearing a light green shirt with a butterfly design and blue jeans.

Witnesses spotted the sisters sitting across from the bus stop on a drainage cement slab around 6:10am. Police later learned that the girls missed their 6:30am bus.

The grandparents filed a missing persons report with the Department of Public Safety at 5:30pm on Wednesday.

Tomokane told *Saipan Tribune* her nieces failed to arrive at Kagman Elementary School as both were marked absent that whole day.

When asked why the family believes the girls may have been abducted, Tomokane said: "Well, what else could have happened when in a matter of seven minutes, Elbert [Quitugua's] son went down to join them [Luhk sisters] like they normally do in the morning and didn't see them there already."

Tomokane said the son didn't see the two girls at the bus stop when the sisters are usually the first ones to be there. She said they are trying to get leads if anybody may have seen a car enter the area.

"My mom, myself, my brother, we haven't slept since last night," she said.

Tomokane said police stopped them from searching the jungle because nobody knows whether somebody is hiding there and may assault them.

She asked for everyone's prayers to locate the girls. She also urged parents to talk to their children and show the photos of the girls if they know anything or have heard any information about them.

"Please get that information and call us here in the family home number at 256-0054," she said.

Saipan Tribune learned that Elbert Quitugua and his wife, Jane Quitugua, have been raising the girls for almost three years now.

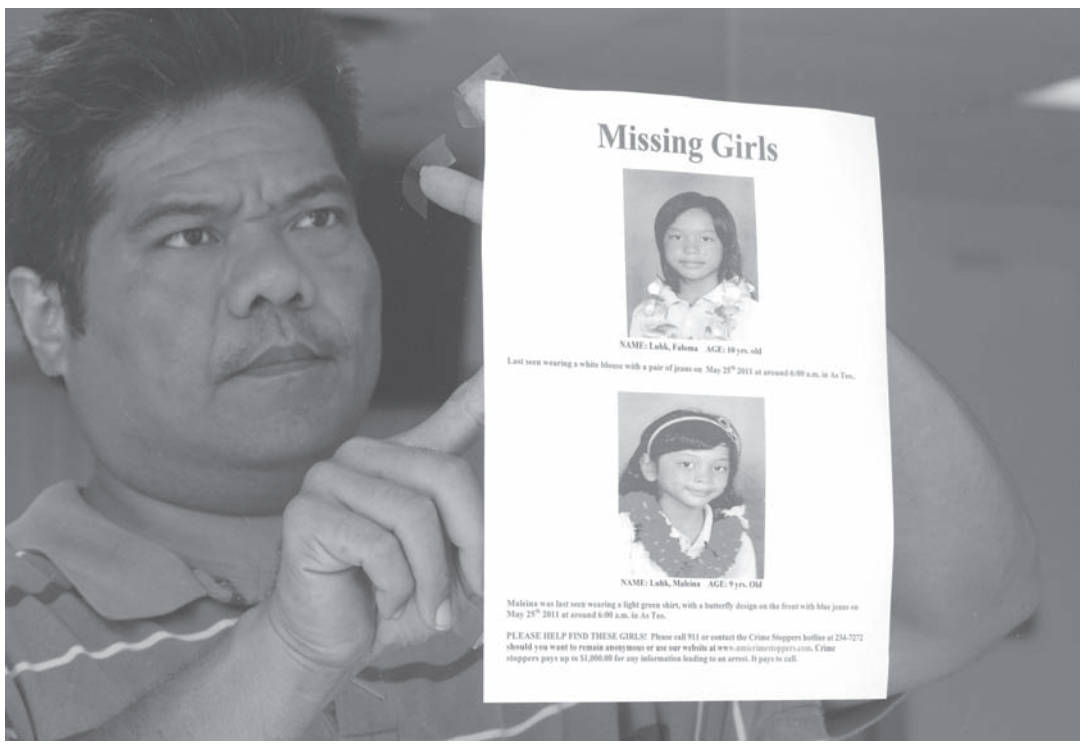
The father of the girls, Ruhtick Luhk, is a former police officer on Saipan and is now based in Pohnpei. The mother is Germaine Quitugua, who is now based in Guam. She was set to arrive on Saipan last night after being informed about what happened to her children.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos called on the community yesterday to come together, as police and other emergency response personnel continue their search.

"Our hearts go out to the family of 9-year-old Maleina Luhk and her sister, 10-year-old Faloma Luhk. I want to assure them and the public that DPS and other response resources are actively mobilized in search of these two young children," said Fitial. "This is very alarming development for us as a close-knit island community. While we hope and pray for the safe return of Maleina and Faloma, we must all be vigilant neighbors to one another. There is no room for such a heinous crime in our islands."

Inos also urged the community to be watchful for each other's lives and property. "This is very disheartening news for any family or community to bear. As the search efforts continue, I also would like to call on our community to come together to continue making our islands safer for everyone—be it children, adults, tourists. We must care for each other and our belongings," said Inos. "Governor Fitial and I urge anyone with helpful information regarding the whereabouts of Maleina and Faloma to immediately contact the authorities."

Anyone with information about the two girls may contact 911 or Crime Stoppers at 234-7272. Anonymous tips may also be submitted to www.nmicrimestoppers.com.



Legislative Bureau computer operator Sylvester Sablan tapes a "missing girls" poster to the glass door of the legislative building's main entrance on Capital Hill yesterday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

HART

From Page 1

the offer indicates no amendment and provides $80,000 annual pay and other benefits.

It was on Wednesday when the board received Adams' decision but Lizama admitted that he has been communicating with Hart since two days ago.

"We never closed the door to any candidate because we're still operating under the resolution. If we will start all over again, we will never have a president and to be accredited, we need a president," said Lizama after the meeting.

He said he was in the U.S. mainland when the college received Hart's letter and was only told about it after his return. "I didn't know that Dr. Hart had sent the letter and during those times, I was still in negotiation with Dr. Adams. But this time, as soon as I received the rejection from the candidate, we started the communication."

Expectations'

Lizama, on behalf of the regents, said they have high expectations for the new president: "Great leadership, great communicator, great management, and great program developer. I know Dr. Hart is a very experienced individual when it comes to running a college."

Hart has been a president of North Dakota State College of Science, president of Middlesex Community College in Connecticut, and vice president for academic and student affairs at North Central Technical College in Wisconsin.

Lizama confirmed that Hart had once applied for the NMC presidency and had been selected among the top candidates but she later withdrew her application.

"Dr. Hart possesses an extraordinary resumé, with many years of proven academic and executive leadership. We firmly believe that she has the qualifications necessary to lead the college to unprecedented heights in providing high quality postsecondary education to our students," said Lizama.

He commended interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera for serving the college in the last 18 months. A formal appreciation, he said, will be scheduled soon.

Conflict of interest

Prior to the voting of members, honorary board member Dr. John Griffin tried to raise an issue against Hart's selection, saying the incoming president—like Dr. Adams—also has some "negative background" at her former colleges.

Lizama, however, cut him off, saying he was not allowed to speak due to a conflict of interest, Griffin being a previous applicant for the NMC presidency.

The board then unanimously voted to choose Hart.

After the meeting, Lizama told *Saipan Tribune* that he allowed Griffin to question the board's selection during previous meetings because he was not aware that the faculty senate president had applied for the position, along with the interim president.

Now that a new president has been named, Lizama is confident that the college will reaffirm its accreditation soon.

Lizama described the supplemental report due this month as an "excellent report" and gave credit to the hard work of the faculty and administration people, led by the interim president, who worked to complete the document.

ROLLBACK

From Page 1

morning, while Shell's was in the afternoon.

Regular unleaded gas is now $4.759 a gallon, after a 10-cent price cut yesterday.

Super or V-Power unleaded gas now costs $5.079 a gallon, also after a rollback.

Diesel is now $5.219 a gallon, also down by 10 cents.

"But prices are still too high. It should only be $4 a gallon," said San Vicente resident Manny Manglona, while buying $10 worth of gas at the Mobil-San Jose service station.

The gas he put in his pickup truck will be good for only two days, he said.

Sydney Camacho, of San Roque, said he's happy with the 10-cent rollback as a start, but he expects the speed by which prices went up in the last few months should also be the speed by which the prices will go down.

"Ten cents can help especially if gas costs you $80 a week; that's the average for my pickup truck which is a V6," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the Mobil-San Jose station.

He said with the high gas prices, he has been cutting down on "recreational" or non-essential expenses.

Camacho said he barely watches television, and uses only the air-conditioner and refrigerator.

Gennaro Cioffi, president and lead country manager for Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc., said yesterday that recently, the wholesale prices of crude oil and gasoline have decreased "and this is having a positive impact on pump prices."

He said retail pump prices are affected by a combination of factors, which include internationally traded wholesale prices, operating and capital cost, distribution costs, taxes and duties, currency exchange rates, and market competition.

"A change in any of these factors may lead to pump price adjustments. In recent months, the wholesale prices of crude oil and gasoline in the world market went up, partly as a result of the increased geopolitical risk in the Middle East and North Africa. As result, the effects of those wholesale price increases impacted pump prices," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an email.

Cioffi also said that as a company, Mobil does not try to forecast the movements in the price of petrol in the wholesale market, when asked whether prices will see further drop.

"And as mentioned, our corporate policy is not to provide advance notice of price increases or decreases," he added.

Larry Belamide, 37, is a bit relieved by the 10-cent gas price cut, but also wishes that it will soon go down to $4.50 a gallon.

Belamide, of As Lito, said he earns minimum wage, which is $5.05 an hour.

He bought a $5 gas for his sedan, and this will last for two days with minimum use. He said the amount used to last for three days.

Pastor Sam Forto of the Blessed Temple Christian Fellowship also hopes there will be further price cuts, considering that prices went up several times this year alone.

"I hope it will go down by 50 cents," the San Vicente resident said, as he was buying $5 gas at the Mobil-San Jose station.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), who has been critical of gas price increases and alleged price fixing, said yesterday of the price rollback: "It's long overdue. It should have been a 50-cent rollback."

Prices in Guam also went down by 10 cents yesterday, with regular gas now costing $4.63 a gallon.

The last time pump prices on Saipan went up was on May 5, by 10 cents a gallon, as the crisis in Middle East and North Africa raged on.

OPA: MPLT assets down $1.646M in 2010

The Office of the Public Auditor said the Marianas Public Land Trust's assets went down by over $1.646 million in fiscal year 2010, mainly because of the actual distribution of past accumulated interest from a Northern Marianas Housing Corp. loan and an advance of future contributions to the CNMI general fund.

But the decrease was offset by an increase in the fair value of investments.

MPLT manages and invests monies it receives from the Department of Public Lands for the use of public lands.

OPA released Wednesday a report on MPLT's fiscal year 2010 financial statement, internal control, and compliance. Deloitte and Touche LLC conducted the audit.

The report was posted yesterday on the OPA website, http://www.opacnmi.com/content/report-mplts-fy-2010-financial-statements-internal-control-and-compliance.

MPLT's total assets in 2010 were over $72.780 million, compared to over $74.427 million in 2009. Total liabilities, meanwhile, decreased by over $4.587 million in 2010 compared to 2009.

MPLT's total revenues are a combination of gains or losses attributable to the valuation of investments plus income earned on such investments.

Total operating revenue for 2010 was over $5.565 million, while MPLT's total performance was 8 percent as growth was minimal.

Overall administrative costs decreased in 2010 by 5 percent or $38,452. OPA said this was primarily due to the decline in money administration expenses, loan administration fees, salaries, and benefits, and office expenses. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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Drawing is on Tuesday, June 7 at 12pm, IP&E Saipan office in Puerto Rico.
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By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends the passage of a bill that will impose a $100 civil fine on government employees who fail to promptly process or pay the CNMI government's vendors and suppliers.

Once the bill becomes law, it will authorize payments "no later than 30 days after payment becomes due." This, however, does not include tort obligations.

In the committee's report, JGO chair Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan) said that significant delays in the receipt of invoices and the issuance of payments by the CNMI government "negatively impact a company's finances and inevitably jeopardize its operations."

"As a result, the number of vendors and suppliers willing to conduct business with the Commonwealth government has decreased because of the fear of delayed payments," the committee report states.

In its findings, House Bill 17-146 says it is necessary to ensure the vendors' trust by ensuring that the Department of Finance strictly adheres to processes of acceptance, timely processing, and ultimately prompt payment to vendors.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), author of HB17-146, said yesterday that his bill will also ensure fair and equal treatment of vendors, suppliers, and vendors owed by the government. He said there have been instances when vendors or suppliers get paid first than others who were owed first.

Punzalan, Lee lead 26 other GCA junior high graduates

KATRINA PUNZALAN
Valedictorian

DONG HA LEE
Salutatorian

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Katrina Punzalan and Dong Ha Lee were named outstanding students of Grace Christian Academy's junior high school, receiving the highest academic honors bestowed on a graduating student.

Punzalan, 13, is this year class valedictorian and is also a recipient of other special recognitions during commencement ceremonies last night at the school chapel. She is the daughter of Riza and Danny Punzalan. She will go to high school at Saipan Southern High.

This year's salutatorian is Lee, who is also the recipient of the school's prestigious Eagle Award. Lee is the son of Ok Kyoung Han and Jong Kwon Lee.

Hanako Eunice Shirata was named Eagle award runner-up.

GCA this year promoted 28 junior high school students to high school.

Graduating with honors were Shirata, Richard Joseph Aldan, and San Ji.

Three other graduates were honorable mentions: Adrian Yue, Abby Lorraine Racoma, and Cloency Zuriel Chua.

The school also awarded medals and trophies to successful participants of the Mathcourt competition, National Junior Forensic League, thespian competitions, sports and extra-curricular activities.

Graduates who got the highest academic grades throughout the school year were also presented A-honor awards, perfect attendance awards, and character awards.

Top students from first grade to seventh grade were also recognized.

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Fund pays out $526M in benefits, refunds

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

From fiscal years 2000 through 2009, the NMI Retirement Fund paid out a total of $526.5 million in benefits and refunds to pension program members, based on the latest actuarial report completed by Buck Consultants.

According to the report, the Fund posted $485.3 million in benefits expenses while it accumulated $41.2 million in total refunds for the same period.

Records presented to the board of trustees indicated that each year, the Fund posted increasing members' benefit payouts from $34.7 million in 2000 to $63 million in fiscal year 2009.

The following are the amount expended by the agency for benefit claims: $34.7 million in 2000; $36.5 million in 2001; $38.8 million in 2002; $42.2 million in 2003; $45.3 million in 2004; and $48.7 million in 2005.

Notable increases in benefit payouts were recorded in 2005 when the Fund paid out $48.7 million; $55.6 million in 2006; $58.4 million in 2007; $61.6 million in 2008; and $63 million in 2009.

Among the program's benefits are disability, survivor, death, and retirement benefits.

Meanwhile, Fund records show that it maintained almost a similar trend in the yearly amount of refund payouts to members, or those who withdrew their contributions to the program as a result of several factors. For the 10-year period, total payout for this purpose is $41.8 million.

In 2000, the agency expended $3.9 million for refunds; $3.2 million in 2001; $4.1 million in 2002; $3.5 million in 2003; $3 million in 2004; $2.9 million in 2005; $4.5 million in 2006; $5.2 million in 2007; $5.5 million in 2008; and $4.8 million in 2009.

'Over 400 members stop contributions in 2009'

The Fund recorded 437 active members who stopped remitting contributions to the pension program in 2009. In that year, the Fund only had 2,996 active members, compared to the 3,433active members noted in 2008.

Board chair Sixto Igisomar explained that the reduction was a result of people leaving the plan, retiring, and those who withdrew their contributions.

Besides the significant reduction in active members, records also show that those receiving benefits also declined from 3,184 in fiscal year 2008 to only 2,940 in 2009—a reduction of 244 recipients.

Igisomar said among the reasons for the reduction in benefits is the termination of benefit claims.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 27, 1999

CJPA needs $1.2M for youth program

During the CNMI Youth Advisory Council meeting yesterday, Criminal Justice Planning Executive Director Harry C. Blanco said a list of proposals had been submitted for possible funding. Federal grants available under the Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA), Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block, and the Edward Burn Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance programs would total to $1.2 million for the entire CNMI. Proposed services for youth development include the Outrigger Canoeing Revitalization on Rota, Teens N-Tinian, Star Waves Dive Team on Saipan and the Youth NMI Wrestling Federation.

MVA salutes employees in tourism business

Employees who have served in various tourism-related business for 10 years or more will be given commendations by the Marianas Visitors Authority for their valuable contribution in the growth of the tourism industry. The recognition day and awarding of winners in the Chef Competition will be held on May 29, 1999 at the American Memorial Park where the first food festival on the island is being held. According to Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Vicky Benavente, next year's food festival will be a bigger event as members of the Japan Saipan Travel Association have pledged to assist in promoting the affair.

May 27, 2002

Hofschneider: Nothing to worry over Metformin

At no time has there been any case of Metformin-induced lactic acidosis in the Commonwealth Health Center nor has such a case been reported through the CHC's adverse drug reaction monitoring program. Health Secretary James U. Hofschneider stressed this, even as he assured that all health care professionals in the Commonwealth would be alerted and informed of the potential risks and contraindications to Metformin therapy. This arose after Rep. Stanley S. Torres expressed concerns over a recent study, which found out that Metformin, a medicine prescribed for diabetics, should not be used by patients with kidney disease or on drug treatment for heart failure.

CPA looks into additional market for PAL

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is looking at several options that would increase potential market to entice Philippine Airlines to fly between Manila and Saipan. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said ports officials are currently coordinating with the Northern Marianas College for additional information on its educational programs. Aside from this, Salas said the CPA is hoping to take advantage of the U.S. Certified Public Accountants Board Exam and NCLEX or the nursing board exam, to lure more tourists to the CNMI.

May 27, 2003

Bank of Saipan reopens today

More than a year after controversies pushed it to near-breakdown, the Bank of Saipan resumes normal banking operations beginning today, armed with a fresh capital infusion of $2 million. Court-appointed receiver Antonio Muna said yesterday that shareholders turned in additional money to complete the recapitalization fund Friday, after the official announcement of the resumption of normal banking operations of the financial institution's Chalan Kanoa, Tinian, and Rota branches. "All the $2 million is in. We've got the capital that we're supposed to get. We're ready to do business," Muna said with optimism. When the bank opens its doors at 9am today, Muna said he expects depositors to flood the bank for withdrawals.

Saipan Head Start centers get $2.2M

The House of Representatives approved last week a financing plan earmarking $2.2 million for the construction of Head Start centers on Saipan. The passage of House Bill 13-277, authored by Rep. Ray Tebuteb, came in a bid to heed federal mandates relating to building capacity space ratio for Head Start program participants. According to the House, the federal grantor agency has advised the Public School System—which oversees the CNMI Head Start program--that it is not in compliance with the federal building capacity ratio. Legislators expressed fear that PSS may lose federal funds that support the Head Start Program if the noncompliance issue is not corrected.

$340K AmeriCorps grant will fund 60 student mentors

WASHINGTON, D.C.—CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan said yesterday that the CNMI Public School System has received a $340,186 AmeriCorps grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The funds are to be used to support high school seniors who mentor other students in reading and study skills.

"Once again, PSS has put together a successful grant for a very worthwhile program," Sablan said. "Sixty of our high school seniors will get part-time work as AmeriCorps members, testing their own interest in the teaching profession and also training younger students to be more successful at school. So the program provides double benefit."

The 60 high school seniors provide one-on-one tutoring and mentoring support during and after school, at the Saturday Reading Programs at the elementary schools, and during the summer.

The focus is on helping the younger students who need help with reading proficiency. The AmeriCorps seniors chart their students' progress in reading vocabulary, reading comprehension, word study skills, thinking and listening skills, and the number of books read.

"This is also a way for these high school seniors to earn money for college," Sablan said. "In addition to the grant dollars to PSS, the Corporation is setting aside funding to pay a $5,350 education award that the AmeriCorps seniors can use to pay for their higher education."

This year's grant cycle was highly competitive, according to AmeriCorps. Nearly twice as many grant dollars and AmeriCorps positions were applied for as could be funded.

"PSS should be congratulated for putting together a strong application that succeeded against heavy odds," said Sablan. "That hard work by PSS administrators creates opportunities for our young people, which they would not otherwise have."

AmeriCorps, which is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, engages 80,000 people each year in intensive, results-driven service through more than 14,000 nonprofits across the country.

Among other activities, AmeriCorps funds programs that tutor and mentor youth, expand health services, build affordable housing, run after-school programs, support veterans, help communities respond to disasters, and recruit and train volunteers.

"Citizen service is an essential part of the solution to many of the social challenges facing our communities, especially in tough economic times," said Sablan. "These AmeriCorps high school seniors members will help strengthen our community as they develop civic and leadership skills that will last them a lifetime." ***(PR)***

5th BRM Car Rally to roll on June 18

Get ready for the biggest motoring adventure of the year as *Beach Road Magazine* Car Rally shifts into gear on June 18.

This year's car rally guarantees the longest and most intricate course yet in the four-year history of the only driving and navigation competition of its kind in the Northern Marianas.

"Every car rally we've done is full of excitement and surprises, but I must say that this year's course is particularly challenging. So drivers and navigators out there, expect the unexpected," says Car Rally master and BRM account manager Susan Marchitti.

The 5th BRM Car Rally is distinctive from all the previous rallies, as this is the first time that a major car dealer will participate. Triple J Motors is not only a major sponsor; it will also enter several teams to pit driving and navigational skills with other competitors. The car dealer will give two free shirts to every team that drives a car bought from Triple J Motors.

When *Beach Road Magazine* launched the first car rally in 2007, organizers aimed to offer Saipan a fresh form of entertainment that would bring families, friends, and companies together in a friendly competition.

A timed and predetermined course combined with aspects of a scavenger hunt, general knowledge and trivia, no car rally will be complete without questions and pitfalls designed to throw the unwary off course.

The car rally presents the entire community a unique experience to see the many facets of the island with a new perspective. Details that ordinarily go unnoticed in the course of daily driving will come into sharp focus.

The car rally is open to drivers 16 years and older. Families, companies, friends, and tourists are invited to participate. Each car is required to have at least one driver and as many navigators as the legal capacity of the vehicle will allow to complete the course.

BRM Car Rally is a competitive motoring event patterned after car rallies in the United States and Europe. Drivers are tasked to complete a course by following instructions that test the team's attention to detail and navigational skills. The starting point will be disclosed to participants when they sign up, and a new set of instructions will be given at every checkpoint. Following the instructions to a tee at every checkpoint is crucial as it can make or break a team's chances of accumulating points to win the car rally.

Registration is $15, and space is limited to 60 cars. Grab a copy of *Beach Road Magazine* for the entry forms, fill them out and submit to the Glimpses of Saipan office on the second floor of the Transpac Business Center along Chalan Pale Arnold Rd., Gualo Rai (near Subway Restaurant) during regular business hours from 8am to 5pm.

Everyone will receive a prize just for making it through the course.

So, gear up and get ready for the most challenging car event of the year.

See *Beach Road Magazine* print ads for details. Interested parties may call Susan Marchitti at 235-7645 or 483-3145. ***(PR)***

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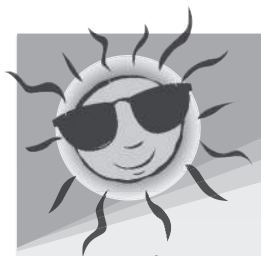
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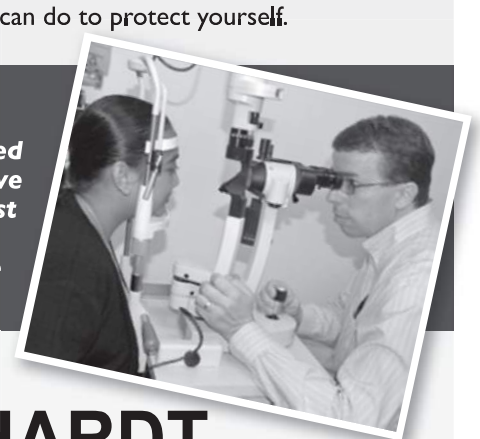
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Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Cellphones: Quieting the public nuisances

Anyone who has been forced to endure a stranger's loud and public cellphone conversation in a supermarket line or a restaurant will understand this story:

A woman boarded an Amtrak train in Oakland, Calif., last Saturday night and proceeded to talk loudly on her cellphone for much of the rest of her 16-hour voyage. Repeated pleas from her fellow passengers—and the conductor—to be quiet fell on, um, deaf ears. Things got so bad that Amtrak officials stopped the train between stations Sunday afternoon in Salem, Ore., and had local police escort her off for being an "unruly passenger." (Usually you have to be a ranting drunk on the train to get that designation.) As a wit on Gawker.com wrote, "She was later charged with unspeakable crimes against humanity and sentenced to life on some distant planet where there are no reception bars, ever."

The question of how to cope with cellphones in public has been a thorny issue for more than a decade. But what's heartening here is that Amtrak officials did something assertive on behalf of the suffering passengers after the woman broke the rule forbidding cellphone use in coach cars at night.

Increasingly, there are rules to limit cellphone use everywhere. On some shorter lines, Amtrak has "quiet cars" where noise from phones, laptops and other devices is prohibited. Gyms often outlaw cellphones in workout areas, and restaurants sometimes nix them. The Los Angeles Public Library system restricts use to lobby areas.

But often rules are unenforced or are not posted or don't exist at all. In fact, L.A.'s Metropolitan Transportation Authority is working on providing cellphone access on subway trains, not taking it away. (Loud radios are still prohibited on buses and trains.)

A sense of entitlement pervades our public areas—a kind of "I want to talk, therefore I will" attitude. And cellphone use is just one example. If only those police officers who took the woman off the Amtrak train could come cart away the people who yak loudly on their townhouse patios on Saturday at 8 a.m. or crank up their stereos at 3 a.m.

But short of a rudeness police—hey, is there a ballot initiative there?—it would improve social well-being if librarians, bus drivers, gym staffers and apartment building managers were more aggressive about quieting irresponsible noisemakers. Wouldn't it be great if you could get your entire apartment building designated "quiet," like the Amtrak cars? Until that happens, we can all start by being aware of the people around us and reminding ourselves of what we tell children: Use your indoor voice.

(c) 2011, Los Angeles Times

A new standard of racial correctness

By GLENN GARVIN
THE MIAMI HERALD

Those birthers really had it wrong. Not only was President Obama not born in Kenya, he isn't even black. This startling truth was revealed last week by Cornel West, the renowned professor of African-American studies at Princeton, who told a reporter that Obama is "a white man with black skin."

"When he meets an independent black brother, it is frightening," West said. "Obama, coming out of Kansas influence, white, loving grandparents, coming out of Hawaii and Indonesia, when he meets these independent black folk who have a history of slavery, Jim Crow, Jane Crow and so on, he is very apprehensive. He has a certain rootlessness, a deracination."

Worse than being merely white, Obama has become a tool of the international Jewish conspiracy. "He feels most comfortable with upper middle-class white and Jewish men who consider themselves very smart, very savvy and very effective in getting what they want," West added.

"He's got two homes. He has got his family and whatever challenges go on there, and this other home. (Former Obama economic adviser) Larry Summers blows his mind because he's so smart. 'He's got Establishment connections. He's embracing me.' It is this smartness, this truncated brilliance, that titillates and stimulates brother Barack and makes him feel at home. That is very sad for me."

Upon reading West's tirade, my first thought was, paradoxically enough, that he's just significantly elevated the quality of American political debate. If Obama is really white, then the reflexive left-wing response to any criticism from the right—that it's motivated not by the president's policies but by the color of his skin—is now officially moot.

My second thought was that Cornel West is a pathetically petty little man. In his interview, he goes on to say that his disillusionment began when his calls to Obama weren't returned and turned complete when he couldn't get a ticket to Obama's inaugural. Worst yet, West checked into a Washington hotel and discovered that "the guy who picks up my bags from the hotel has a ticket to the inauguration." A mere bellhop gets a ticket and a Princeton professor can't! Where's the democracy?

And my third thought was that, for connoisseurs of fine irony, West is a truly gift from God. That business about the bellhop, for instance: You can only truly appreciate it if you know that West's own grandfather was a hotel bellhop. I know this because I read it in his autobiography, "Brother West: Living and Loving Out Loud: A Memoir." For which the renowned Princeton professor had to employ a ghostwriter named David Ritz, who is (ahem) white. See what I mean?

Unfortunately, there's more to West's comments than hilariously rank hypocrisy. They represent an increasingly common and extraordinarily destructive tendency toward what might be called Racial Correctness, in which racial identity is assigned by skin color or genetic history but by a set of rigidly defined political and social conduct. That is, if you don't think and behave the way mandated by the dictates of race commissars like West, you aren't black.

The political criteria are, of course, left-wing. In his interview drumming Obama out of the black race, when West could tear himself away from the endlessly fascinating tale of his lack of inaugural tickets, he excoriated the president for not jailing everybody on Wall Street or pulling all the troops out of Afghanistan and Iraq. Because that's what a truly black president would have done.

In America today, it's impossible for a black person to be a conservative. Just ask Clarence Thomas.

The other component of Racial Correctness is even worse: self-definition of ethnicity as social dysfunction. West touched on this in his interview when he declared Michelle Obama racially suspect for devoting her attention to childhood obesity and the problems of military families. "Why doesn't she visit a prison?" West demanded. "Why not spend some time in the hood?"

ESPN basketball analyst Jalen Rose, in a recent documentary about the University of Michigan team on which he starred in the early 1990s, said he despised the black players at rival Duke as "Uncle Toms" because they were "well-to-do black guys that come from well-accomplished families that they understand are going to represent their program a certain way."

This is the sort of thinking that leads black kids to scorn studying as "acting white." It's a declaration that there's only one way to be black, and that's to fail, that black racial identity is defined by thuggery and welfare. And it's not a new phenomenon. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if Cornel West gets a congratulatory note from a group that has long proclaimed the very same thing. Three guesses which one, professor. And start them all with the letter K.

Glenn Garvin is a columnist for the Miami Herald*, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla. 33132. Readers may write to him via email at ggarvin@miamiherald.com.*

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Cars and tourists

Many of the world's tour operators are rubbing their hands and licking their chops in happy contemplation of selling to China's rising middle class, which is ready to hit the world, passports and cameras in hand.

So as you can imagine, all sorts of guys are staring through thick eyeglasses at computer screens trying to divine the future and fortunes of the Chines e. Well, fair enough, but I enjoy a hip-shot approach to this gig, too, which aims my mind toward a simple index of middle class health: Cars.

Saipan has seen this gig first-hand. Tourists from Japan and South Korea are largely middle class elements rooted in the industrial prowess of those nations, and their automotive industries are pillars of their industrial success.

So my guess is that China won't be a truly ripe source of tourists until you start hearing your friends talking about the Chinese cars they just bought. When that day arrives, we'll know that the Chinese middle class has also arrived in a big way, and they'll be wandering the world on vacations.

Meanwhile, here are two facts worth heeding:

1). China is now the world's largest producer of cars.

2). China is now the world's largest consumer of cars.

ChinaAutoWeb.com is an interesting source of related developments. It has listed yearly growth in sales for the largest 10 Chinese manufacturers. The largest maker, Shanghai GM, had 42.9 percent growth in 2010 vs. 2009. The lowest growth on the list was 16 percent. All the others on the list were in the 20s and 30s for percentages. Good heavens, this is incredible growth, entire multiples of China's already incredible economic growth overall.

As you'll surmise from the name Shanghai GM, some of these companies are tie-ups with foreign firms. I don't think that dilutes the importance of the statistics, though. A long time ago, it was Henry Ford who gave the Japanese some helpful pointers with assembly line design, and they seem to have done quite well for themselves heeding the lessons, eh? Those who are willing to learn will learn.

Americans often like to deride the Chinese as cheap and tone-deaf to quality, but that doesn't mesh with what I see, especially when it comes to cars. Most of my Chinese friends own either BMWs or Mercedes-Benz cars. In fact, some models of BMWs are now being made in China.

So if this appreciation for good engineering and high quality gains mindspace in China's automotive management ranks, then China will have just that much more potential.

China's entry into the U.S. market has long been rumored, but I haven't seen it materialize yet. Most of what I've seen about it over the years contains a lot of speculation about China entering the lowest possible part of the market, selling cars cheaper than anyone else does. So that's the conventional wisdom. One thing I'm just curious about is whether China would also aim for a higher segment, I mean, why not?

For example, a friend of mine in the states just looked at American SUVs, and came away from the experience under-whelmed. He reports that a $40,000 out-the-door cost (which is $36,000 for the car, the remainder for sales tax, registration, etc.) would get him a plastic- and aluminum junk-wagon festooned with shiny trinkets and laden with silly electronic gimmicks.

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at Tropical Ed.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.

So he said the heck with it, and, after 45 years of buying American vehicles, he bought a Hyundai. Now he's tasked with delivering constant updates on his experience with the thing, since friends and neighbors are wondering if he's on to something good.

Anyway, I'll take a guess and say it's not just the bottom end of the cheapest segment of the sub-compact market that has opportunities. From what I'm hearing, there are folks in the sub-luxury realm who would gladly pay serious coin if they could only find a serious vehicle that can justify itself. On sort of a related note, I have relatives who are in the habit of buying used Lexus sedans from Lexus dealers, so they can lock into some good quality while still keeping some tension on the purse-strings.

China's economy is vast, complicated, and pretty much impossible to really understand. But by keeping an eye on China's auto industry, I think we can get a feel for the overall potential of the Chinese traveling class as workers, managers, consumers, and, yes, as tourists, too.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A new approach for investors

I'm offering this suggestion only because a person dear to me and some readers of my last letter on casinos asked me to offer some kind of alternative to the casino investors. I told them it may not do any good but, given that I already knew what can work, I will go ahead and share it because we reach many solutions by compromising, caring and sharing. In the business world it is known as creating partnerships, showing respect for the stakeholders (community) and sharing in the profits. The new economic strategy for investors should be a "team approach" as single investors are very limited in carrying the necessary load to generate the tourist numbers and attractions necessary for the CNMI to reach a prosperous level of economic activity. The team approach has been successful in many U. S. cities and was successfully used in creating our tourist industry in the formative years of the CNMI.

The CNMI is definitely at the crossroads in determining the direction we must take for our future economic salvation and prosperity. It seems we are caught between casinos and a desire for a more "civil" economic base as a foundation for our economic future. I believe we can have both if the powers-that-be can come to the realization that compromise, cooperation, and sharing may be the best solution for everyone. The casino proponents are not going to go away so we must offer them an alternative, which is really part of their own plan.

The future economic strategy that is developing throughout the world is *horizontal integration* of businesses or partnerships, which we can already see taking place on a grand scale in the air transportation industry. The investors who want to build casinos on Saipan need to seriously consider this strategy because they mentioned a desire to also build a "convention center/hotel" and the casino was to give convention goers a means to gamble and have fun. The investors will truly be welcomed, supported and even appreciated if they will try to work within the existing economic model of the CNMI, which has casinos on the outer islands. A better and safer investment plan would be to build the convention center/hotel on Saipan and seek partnerships with the existing casinos or build one on Tinian and Rota. The CNMI has already been looking into a possible convention center and there is land, plans and even blueprints developed by a previous member of the CNMI Legislature—plans that these investors may be able to get for free.

Saipan would be a great site to become the convention mecca for South Asia and the Micronesia region. Unlike Hawaii and Guam that have become very much like a metropolitan city on the mainland, the CNMI still possesses the mood of paradise in the Pacific, which is a great attraction for conventions. The CNMI will be more competitive with Hawaii for these conventions, especially with the cost of airfares. I believe our efforts would be better served by working toward bringing in large groups of visitors to the CNMI who can travel to Tinian or even Rota to gamble and have a great experience of true island life. Creating partnerships with the existing casinos and airlines to bring in conventions is the best way to resolve this issue of creating more casinos on Saipan. The casinos and the convention center can complement each other.

Presently, the largest venue in the Micronesia region is an old gym in Guam. A convention center with 20,000 seats or more on Saipan would give the CNMI a significant advantage and greatly improve our potential for international exposure through events at the convention center. The CNMI can even host international events for our region and the investors will make millions and I can show them how if they need help. These investors will also be welcomed by existing casinos if they are smart because the convention traffic could indeed be the salvation for all the casinos on Tinian and Rota.

History has proven that unwanted investors, especially when they are tied to the politics of the area or region, usually end up with nothing in the end! These investors need to work with the people of Saipan or their plan won't work at all in the long run. I also believe we need to look beyond the faces that represent the investment capital to find the true source of the capital they are talking about investing. Who is the true owner of this money and is it clean money? Nobody seems to be thinking or caring about this very important fact that needs to be investigated and disclosed because we should know who is trying to get in bed with us.

The investors and their front can go ahead and try to force the casinos down our throats but I can assure them that I will be saying I told you so once again. The CNMI needs to now focus on the infrastructure to support the existing casinos, not new ones that will still need the same support system. The Legislature needs to work on the big picture and do all it can to convince these investors to build a convention center. There is enough cash to go around for everyone if we can learn to compromise, share, and work together as a team to build the best infrastructure for our tourist industry.

P.S. The convention center was part of the GOP platform in the governor and delegate race but people voted for something else. We voted ourselves into this mess and we must vote ourselves out of this mess!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

A wonderful letter

Glen, your letter to the editor titled "A refreshingly wonderful public hearing" that appeared on Friday, May 20, was wonderful. I hope that the spirit of your thoughts will become the standard for the CNMI. I love this island too, but if I get too involved it is very frustrating. You are right, there is a small portion of the population that do not contribute in a positive way to the culture and growth of the island. Personally, I write them off but they have a strong influence on the people and the majority fear to go against them.

For example, I have heard a new term for outsiders. We are called "brown ticks" holding on to the island like ticks on a dog. At first I was angry, then I realized that this dog has no blood left, so why do we stay hooked on? It is because we too love this place and would like to contribute. There are some on the island that cannot take help from outsiders. I know people (ticks) who have lived here for almost 30 years and they tried hard to improve the standard of living here. They gave their talents, education, world experiences to teach the kids, to build a system of justice but, they feel that no one ever listened. It is sad for the outsiders and the NMDs because they all become losers.

I came to Saipan over 10 years ago. I looked for ways to contribute but quickly realized that the best thing for me to do was to enjoy my retirement. I could not help people who would not help themselves. I really liked your letter, perhaps it means that positive change is coming for the people. I see you as a force for making change. I truly wish you the best. I know that it is not easy to be a change agent.

Frank Stewart
Capital Hill, Saipan

Bad joke

This week a 19-year-old individual was arrested for the 25th time. Is this some kind of bad joke? If you are trying to lead a decent honest life and teach your children to do the same, this is a slap in the face to you. If you volunteer your time for Crime Stoppers or participate in the Neighborhood Watch program you may be wasting your time, because it is clear that in the CNMI there is no serious intent to control crime. Our prosecutors have failed. Our courts have failed. As far as I can see the only people that have done their jobs are the underpaid and often criticized people at Public Safety. After all, if they have arrested the same person 25 times, they must be doing something right. It must be totally demoralizing for them to arrest the same people over and over again, only to see them back out on the street the next week. We have a new state-of-the-art correctional facility, but one thing that was overlooked in its design was a revolving door. It is time that our elected officials mandate serious jail time for repeat offenders, instead of considering legislation to expunge criminal records.

Ron Fusco
Capital Hill, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

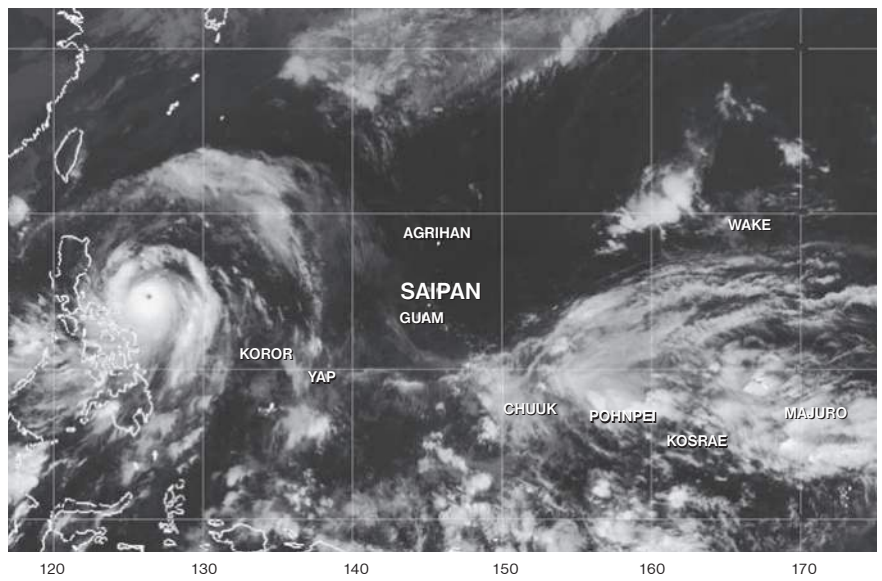
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼81
Palau	Rain	▲86	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼77
Kosrae	Rain	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Rain	▲83	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲63	▼56
Beijing	Sunny	▲85	▼60
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Honolulu	Windy	▲85	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼50
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼66
Osaka	Rain	▲68	▼64
Paris	Showers	▲66	▼47
Pusan	Showers	▲66	▼59
Rome	Sunny	▲80	▼61
Salem	Showers	▲56	▼46
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼50
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼58
Tokyo	Rain	▲65	▼64
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲87	▼68

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The eastern end of a monsoon trough extends eastward from near the Philippines through 13N130E to end at 11N137E. Converging south winds south of the trough axis are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Koror, west of a line from 5N135E to 11N135E. Southeast winds converging north of the trough axis are causing similar conditions north of Koror or west of a line from 12N137E to 16N137E to 20N130E. A surface trough between Yap and Chuuk runs northwestward from EQ146E to 10N142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough south of a line from 3N140E to 3N153E. Trade-wind convergence is coupling with divergent upper winds to produce a broad area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from Chuuk eastward to the Marshall Islands between 4N and 12N from 148E to 175E. An upper-level low is centered at 20N165E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with this feature are found near Wake Island north of a line from 16N160E to 17N168E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
3:24 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:26 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
4:26 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:46 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:43 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:34 AM	2:03 PM
Saturday	2:10 AM	2:50 PM
Sunday	2:47 AM	3:38 PM
Monday	3:26 AM	4:28 PM
Tuesday	3:26 AM	4:28 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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21 honored in mentor appreciation luncheon

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-one private and government groups were honored yesterday at the Minatdom Atdao pavilion in a special lunch prepared by students of Marianas High School's cooperative program.

Students, along with program coordinator Tyce Mister, presented certificates of appreciation to the groups for providing them the training and skills required for the program.

The cooperative program is designed to help prepare students for the job market and consists of both on-campus instruction and off-campus training.

Students are taught how to write resumés and applications, interviews, personal development, and other job seeking skills. Students gain work experience by participating as a "trainee" at an off-campus business organization.

Mister, who has been with the program since 1996, said that many students have benefited from it since the program's inception in 1971. He expressed

See LUNCHEON on Next Page

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Learn how to make indigenous food

Learn more about *mutsiyas* and how to make *tamales gisu, kå'it,* and mango preserve/jam and have them for lunch this Saturday.

The Chamorro-Carolinian Cultural Center on Capital Hill (1213 Capitol Hill Road, next to the CNMI Board of Parole Office and across from the CNMI Workforce Investment Agency) is concluding its traditional food preparation workshop this Saturday, May 28, 2011.

All Chamorros and Carolinians, ages 14 and up, are invited to come and learn how to make these traditional food preparations and have them for lunch too. Classes start at 9am and end around noon.

The classes are offered for free by the Inetnon Åmot yan Kutturan Natibu/Mwilschil Safey me Kkoor Aramasal Faluw, in partnership with the Indigenous Affairs Office and funded in part by the Administration for Native Americans. For more information, call 322-0278. ***(PR)***

PIBBA exec on *Marianas Agupa* on Saturday

This Saturday, May 28, *Marianas Agupa* will feature Florine Hofschneider and Diane Borja of the Pacific Islands Bi-Lingual and Bi-Cultural Association. The show is from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be the PIBBA conference on Tinian slated on June 20 and other issues affecting the Pacific islands and its people, culture, and language.

The Chamorro talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona and features reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Thomas D. Mendiola from Rota, former senator David M. Cing on Tinian, and a special report "In the Spotlight" with Rose Ada-Hocog. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

Services to US armed forces

The American Red Cross–NMI Chapter is inviting all U.S. military service members—active, reserve, Guard, and veterans—to attend a "Health & Well Being Workshop" on Saturday, May 28, 2011, at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

The workshop, from 8:30am to 12pm, will feature:

- Red Cross "Get to Know Us" briefing
- Ruth Coleman of Veterans affairs
- VA clinic Medical Associates of the Pacific, LLC.
- VFW Post Commander

The workshop, breakfast, lunch, and park passes will be provided free of charge for all qualified military service members (DD-214). Military service members are allowed to bring two dependents. For more information or to register call or email Le'ah A. Murphy, Red Cross SAF Coordinator, at 234-3459 or leah.murphy670@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of 1991 sets reunion meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1991 will be having its 20th reunion. Class members will be meeting on June 3, 2011, at the 13 Fishermen's Pavilion (2nd Pavilion) on Beach Road at 6pm to plan for the reunion. ***(PR)***

Sengebau Poetry Competition postponed

The NMI Council for the Humanities 8th Annual Sengebau Poetry Competition has been postponed to October 2011 and will be included in the upcoming celebration of Humanities Month. ***(PR)***

SCC Corporate Challenge set

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual SCC Corporate Challenge Sunday, May 29, 2011, at the Minatchom Atdao in Susupe at 9:30am. Registration begins at 7:30am. To date, 10 teams have submitted applications. SC traditionally accepts entries from SCC only, but this year has decided to open up registration to non-SCC member companies. SCC members can enter for $300 and non-SCC member entry is $400. The SCC Corporate Challenge is a fun event that can be used as a company outing or employee appreciation day. There are competitive races and games with prizes, and a judged tent competition. This year's theme is "Island Style Recycling" where recycled material will be used to decorate individual corporate entry tents. A panel of judges will decide the winners. ***(SCC)***

GUANGDONG HARDWARE

GUANGDONG MILEI? GUANGDONG BA ITO?

GOOD NEWS TO ALL TINIAN/ROTA CUSTOMERS:
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MONETH G. DEPOSA

Students and their mentors pose for a group photo during yesterday's Cooperative Program appreciation luncheon at Minatdom Atdao.

LUNCHEON

From Page 13

gratitude to all companies and government agencies for consistently supporting the program for many years.

This semester, 11 students went through the program, in addition to 10 other students who are continuing with their training from last semester.

Lira Lizama, a four-month trainee at the Medical Associates of the Pacific, said she didn't really expect to land a full-time job after finishing the program. The company offered Lizama a job as a full-time employee starting this summer.

"I worked there as an administrative assistant trainee and I was really surprised when they offered me the full-time position of receptionist this summer. It was an unexpected and I am so happy," she said.

After graduation, Lizama will pursue nursing at Northern Marianas College. She said the knowledge, skills, and experiences she gained from working with the company boosted her confidence and morale.

Maria Reyes and Beverly Monteclaro, meanwhile, worked as trainees at Saipan World Resort in the accounting and gift shop sections, respectively. Company officials also conferred certificates of recognition to the two for sharing their talent with the resort.

Ray Villagomez, who worked as a trainee at the Superior Court's Office of Adult Probation, shared the many good things he gained from his experience, while his mentor, probation officer Shirley Ogumoro, acknowledged Villagomez's valuable contributions.

Ogumoro said having a trainee at the department helped the agency perform all its expected tasks despite being placed under austerity.

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NMC's School of Education director wins ICT award

One of the Northern Marianas College's faculty members, together with a team of other educational professionals, recently won a national award for his work in integrating technology in curriculum development.

Dr. Joseph Peters, who works as NMC's director of the School of Education, won the "Best Use of Technology in Education and Training" category in the Information and Communication Technology Excellence Awards.

Peters

The ICT is an organization based in Ireland that recognizes achievements in the technology industry. Peters' team was lauded for creating an online national science curriculum for K-8 that can be as a standalone curriculum or as a supplement to textbooks. Peters' son was also a member of the team.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, known primarily for publishing and distributing textbooks and other educational materials, recruited Peters and his peers to work on an online program called Science Fusion, which teaches elementary science through an interactive online learning program. The program duplicates the science textbook editions issued to schools nationwide so that the students and teachers have the option of learning and teaching with both.

Peters indicated that Houghton Mifflin Harcourt had sought his participation in the development of the program because of his expertise in writing elementary science education textbooks and strong background in technology. He was a part of the team that wrote digital curriculum documents, developed the digital storyboards, and assisted with the quality assurance for the completed online materials.

"It was a great honor to be notified by HMH and told that this product had won the excellence award," said Dr. Peters. "It feels good to have your expertise and passion recognized."

The Science Fusion program includes interactive content screens, integrated assessment, supportive teacher resources, and interactive online laboratories.

"More than anything, I'm happy to have created a program that will allow K-8 students to learn science interactively, in a fun and new way," added Peters.

The team, composed of international members, each an expert in their field, coordinated with one another through phone calls and through online communications.

"We are extremely proud of Dr. Peters and his team," said Barbara Merfalen, dean of Academic Programs and services.

The program will be officially launched in the near future and made available nationwide. Dr. Peters hopes that the CNMI will look at this option for the Public School System. ***(NMC)***

Writer-entrepreneur to appear on 'Your Humanities Half-Hour'

The NMI Council for the Humanities will feature author, entrepreneur, and former S*aipan Tribune* columnist Walt F. J. Goodridge on its weekly radio show this Sunday, May 29, on Power 99 FM from 2pm to 2:30pm.

Goodridge will discuss the personal journey that led to his life of writing and travel. He will also share ideas about how writing in this age of advanced technology and global connectivity can empower local writers and artists to share their work and passion beyond the CNMI.

"Writing, blogging, and a little Internet savvy can expose the work of local writers and artists to a global consumer audience," said Goodridge. "My goal is to share some success stories, some ideas and some secrets that I and others are using to do just that. It's much easier than people realize."

Goodridge

Originally from the island of Jamaica, Goodridge is a former civil engineer who hated his job, followed his passion, walked away from his career and, in 2006, "escaped" from New York City, where he lived for most of his life, and moved to Saipan. He is the author of 20 books, several blogs, and is the founder of the WeLoveSaipan.com website.

"Your Humanities Half-Hour" is supported in part by a We the People grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and is directed and hosted by noted media personality Catherine Rosario Perry. The weekly show features local and visiting humanities scholars, students, community organizations, and other special guests who discuss humanities projects and issues of interest in the NMI.

According to Rosario-Perry, Goodridge's insights and experiences on this week's show will "help people to make the connection between culture and communication, to develop ways to write about, and thereby preserve the culture while incorporating technology in a world that requires certain modern skills in order to survive and prosper."

For more information on the Council, visit www.nmihumanities.org. ***(PR)***

On Behalf of the DPS, Fire Division, Office of EMS and the 2011 EMSC Day and EMS Week Committee

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Delta, IT&E major sponsors of 30th Flame Tree Arts Festival

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Support is pouring in for arts and culture in the Marianas with Delta Air Lines and IT&E becoming the latest major sponsors of the 30th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival.

Major sponsorship status is bestowed on establishments that give cash or in-kind donations worth $3,000 or more.

Delta Air Lines sales and marketing representatives Chris Concepcion and Esther Sound presented their donation of two roundtrip tickets to anywhere in the U.S. mainland yesterday morning at the Delta check-in counter of the Saipan International Airport.

Concepcion said that Delta Air Lines has been a consistent sponsor of this annual event. "We are very proud to continue supporting the arts and culture of the Commonwealth. We wish the Council and the Committee the best of luck in organizing this much anticipated event," he added.

IT&E donated $2,000 in cash and $3,000 worth of in-kind

See DELTA on next page

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Delta Air Lines sales and marketing representatives Chris Concepcion, second left, and Esther Sound, second right, present the two roundtrip tickets to Flame Tree Arts Festival Committee members at the Delta check-in counter at Saipan International Airport yesterday morning. From left are committee member Lucille T. Ayuyu, Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog, overall festival committee chair Parker Y. Yobei, and committee member Guadalupe T. Pangelinan.

CCA moves to Gualo Rai office

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Cancer Association, the community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting cancer awareness and prevention, has moved to a new location.

Program manager Tina Sablan said that CCA is now located next to the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. office in Gualo Rai. Its former location was at the Nokalimi Plaza in Garapan.

"Sharing office space with NMPASI not only makes good fiscal sense for both our nonprofit organizations, but also facilitates and enhances our partnership as well as our services to our clients," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan said the new space includes a front office, storage room for the organization's medical equipment and supplies, ample and accessible parking area, and a spacious conference and training room that will be shared with NMPASI.

She said they are still getting settled in their new place, which will be subleased from NMPASI, as they only officially moved out of the old office last weekend.

According to Sablan, the sublease will be up for renewal in October. "NMPASI is currently negotiating its lease with the landlord, which would in turn influence our sublease agreement with NMPASI."

Sablan said CCA extends its appreciation to NMPASI for entering into this new partnership agreement with CCA and to the Sablan family and Nokalimi Plaza for their generous donation of the Garapan office space from March 2010 to May 2011.

7 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged seven beach sites on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected beach sites are the DPW Channel Bridge, Smiling Cove Marina, beach north of the American Memorial Park, south of Hafa-Adai Beach Hotel, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach drainage, and the Saipan Grand Hotel beach.

In a statement yesterday, the division said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan's coast on Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

From Page 16

donation that includes one year unlimited local talk service, one Blackberry Bold, one Samsung i100 Gem Android Phone, one Pantech Duo with $10 prepaid SIM card, one Aircard with six months free service, five IT&E gift bags, and six phones with $75 worth of airtime to be used by committee members.

Wireless/marketing supervisor Veronica Acosta and marketing coordinator and data manager Brad Ruszala handed the donation at their Chalan Lau Lau office yesterday morning.

Acosta said IT&E has been sponsoring the Flame Tree Arts Festival every year. "We want to be a part of this big event and we are always looking to support our brilliant local artists."

Since off-island delegates are expected to take part in the celebration, Acosta said that community support for the festival would be great. "The event would be a great opportunity to learn about different cultures and see the great elegance of the many performers."

Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog, overall festival committee chair Parker Y. Yobei, and committee members Lucille T. Ayuyu and Guadalupe T. Pangelinan accepted the donations.

"These in-kind donations will be used as prizes for our raffle draw, which would be held during the festival's ceremony at 10am on June 11," said Yobei.

Yobei invited other businesses to give cash or in-kind donations for this year's celebration. "We encourage the public to join us make history as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Flame Tree Arts Festival."

Hocog said they are very fortunate to have the support of Delta and IT&E. "Delta Air Lines and IT&E have always been advocates of the development and promotion of arts and culture on our islands. We express our profound gratitude for their tremendous support," he added.

The 30th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival will be held from June 9 to 12 at the American Memorial Park in Garapan, west of the Bell Tower. This year's theme is "Celebrating 30 years of Uniting Cultures and Traditions." For more information, call 322-9982 or 83 or email ftaf30@yahoo.com.

IT&E wireless/marketing supervisor Veronica Acosta, far left, and marketing coordinator and data manager Brad Ruszala, far right, hand their donation consisting of $2,000 cash and $3,000 worth of items to Flame Tree Arts Festival Committee members during a ceremony at their Chalan Lau Lau office Thursday morning. Also in photo are Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog, committee chair Parker Y. Yobei, members Lucille T. Ayuyu and Guadalupe T. Pangelinan.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

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Pineda tops 'Taste' bartender's cocktail competition

For the best combination of showmanship, taste, originality, audience impact, and neatness, bartender Marlon Pineda of Saipan World Resort bettered his third place finish in 2010 to capture first place of the Bartender's Cocktail Competition at last Saturday's Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden.

With his signature cocktail "Marianas Punch," Pineda bested 10 other competitors in the annual competition. First runner-up honors went to Roland Fernandez. Second runner-up was Ma. Theresa Rio of Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Third runner-up prize went to Mike Benevente of GIG Discotheque.

Participants were given five minutes to prepare five drinks, one for display and four for tasting. All recipes were required to include Burnett's Flavored Vodka and a Coca-Cola Bottling Company product.

The Best in Showmanship Award also went to Pineda. Best in Taste Award went to Fernandez with his "Immortality." Best in Prop & Costume Award was garnered by Helen Borja of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Winners took home cash prizes, trophies, and other gifts. Other contestants were Raymond E. Tolentino of Pacific Islands Club Saipan; Ernie Garcia of Hyatt Regency Saipan; Joseph Solmarin of Hard Rock Café; Mark Nuique and Jay Santos of The Flair; Ed Flores of GIG Discotheque; and Ramil Eustaquio of Wonderful Bar.

Major sponsors for the annual competition are the Marianas Visitors Authority, Burnett's Flavored Vodka, MARPAC, Burnett's Flavored Vodka, Duty Free Galleria, IT&E, Coca-cola, and System 4 You.

This Saturday's Taste of the Marianas will be extended until 11pm and will feature the Chefs' Competition, pitting junior chefs of major island hotels against each other beginning at 6:30pm. ***(MVA)***

MVA

Winners of the Bartender's Cocktail Competition on May 21, 2011, at the 13th Annual Taste of the Marianas.

WIA bids bon voyage to Teregeyo

Roxie Teregeyo, a WIA participant, has been accepted into the Job Corps Program at the Maui Campus. She will be leaving the CNMI to further her education and training with an emphasis in Business.

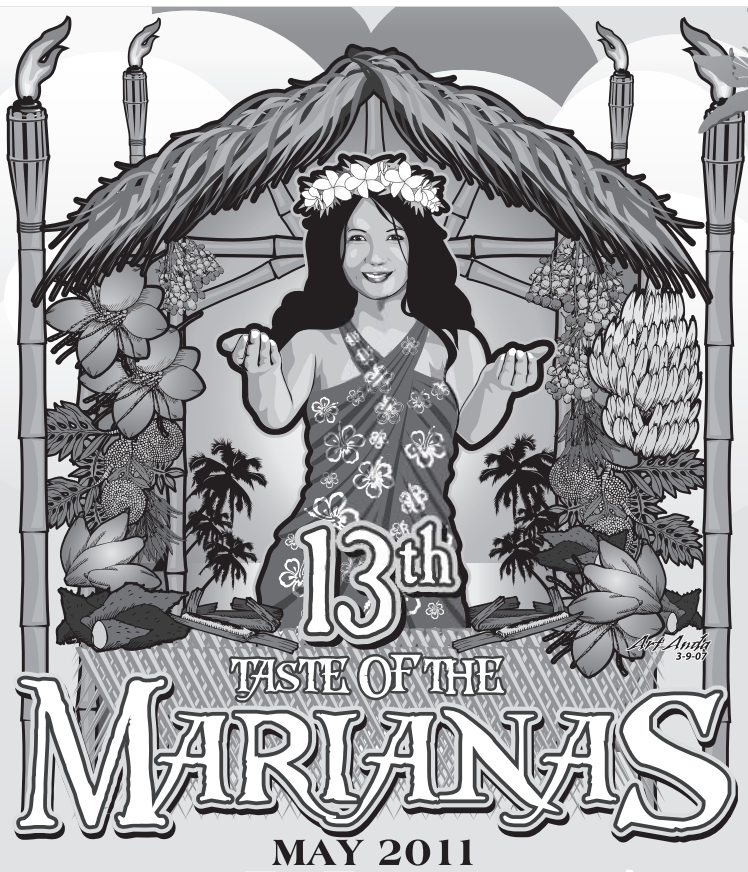
Teregeyo

While waiting for an opening and acceptance into the Job Corps, Teregeyo has been receiving subsidized employment and training under WIA. She will be arriving in Maui with her strong administrative skills complemented with her work readiness certificate and time keeper certification.

The skills, hard and soft work skills, Teregeyo has gained while waiting will certainly give her the edge to compete, paving the road for a bright and successful future with the hope of returning to the CNMI with her newly acquired knowledge and skills.

While the staff and management of WIA will certainly miss Roxie, they are also very proud of her accomplishments as a participant and wish her all the best on her journey for a bright and successful future.

Under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, WIA serves as an outreach and admissions agency for the Job Corps Program. For more information on Job Corps, contact 664-1704/07/08 or visit WIA at www.wia.gov.mp. ***(Office of the Governor)***



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MAY 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2011

Saturday, May 28, 2011

6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	**Umang Glee Club**
6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	**Maluw Band**
7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	**Anna Glushko Academy**
8:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	**Rose Dance School**
8:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	**Inatua Cultural Dancers**
9:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	**Refaluwasch Warriors**
9:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	**Alii Band**
10:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	**Alii Show**

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- Northern Marianas Bartender Association

For more information, please contact the Marianas Visitors Authority at telephone numbers 1 (670) 664-3200/01 or via website at www.mymarianas.com .

Saipan Tinian Rota

2011 CNMI TOURISM MONTH
"Tourism is Everybody's Business"

***"Hafa Adai Tirow"* Spirit Island Wear Fridays**

Every Friday in May is Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Island Wear day! Show your island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Post your photos on Facebook at *"Hafa Adai Tirow* Spirit Island Wear of the Northern Mariana Islands" and get a chance to win Taste of the Marianas tokens and a Tourism Month t-shirt; one lucky winner per week will be chosen from all who post photos.

Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden

This highly anticipated weekly celebration will be held every Saturday in May at American Memorial Park from 6-10 p.m. The event will feature delicious local and international cuisine sold by over 15 hotel and local restaurants. Enjoy the talent of local and international performers with live entertainment all evening. The event will feature nightly competitions, as well as trivia questions aimed at promoting tourism awareness.

"My Marianas" Community Outreach Presentation

Get up-to-date on the latest industry trends and upcoming tourism events during this picturesque slideshow on Saturday evenings at the Taste of the Marianas. Tourism Month informational packages will also be available on-site.

On-the-Street Interviews

MVA turns the spotlight on you as random community members are given an opportunity to share their views on various tourism topics in the Tourism Tuesday feature of the Saipan Tribune.

Radio Tourism Trivia

Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. "Did You Know?" and "Fun Facts about Tourism in the Northern Marianas" will be aired regularly throughout the month on Power 99 (99.5 FM), KZMI (103.9 FM) and KKMP (1440 AM and 92.1 FM).

Taste of the Marianas Competitions

HONOR GRADUATE

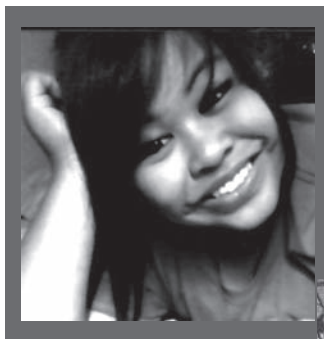
Congratulations to Mary Grace D. Ermitanio who graduated cum laude on May 13, 2011, from the University of Southern California with a bachelor's degree in Science, majoring in Computer Science and Business Administration. She is also in the Dean's List. Greetings come from Daddy Ed, Mommy Mercy, Rochell, and JP, with your relative and friends in Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Raynalynn Sablan, who celebrated her 16th birthday yesterday! Happy birthday baby Rayna! Love, Mom, Dad, and Lynnaray.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to Justina Lee, who is celebrating her special day today, May 27! Greetings come from your family.

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- Whole Chicken LIMIT 1 CASE $35.99
- Young Spare Ribs 10 LBS. $19.99 $18.99 (3 DAYS ONLY MAY 27, 28 & 29) Limit 1
- Pork Spareribs BBQ Adobo Cut 20 LBS. $24.99
- Beef Back Spare Ribs 20 LBS. $25.99
- Gusto Smoked Ham/ Whole Turkey $1.99 /POUND
- Mackerel PACIFIC 22.4 LBS. $25.99 PIKE (uneven weight per case) $1.29 /LB.
- Bear Brand Powdered Milk 180g. 99¢
- SEOK SU Dynamic Fresh 500ml. x 20 $5.99 /CASE
- Jasmine Lotus Rice 50 LBS. (LIMIT 1) $25.99
- Diamond G Calrose Rice 50 LBS. (LIMIT 1) $28.99 $27.99 (3 DAYS ONLY MAY 27, 28 & 29)
- Sapporo Ichiban 21pcs./case (LIMIT 1) $8.99 /CASE (3 DAYS ONLY MAY 27, 28 & 29)
- Marukiyo Rice Cracker 100pcs. $89.99
- MH Coffee Mix 100 sticks $6.99 LIMIT 1
- Maxim Mocha Gold Coffee Mix 100 count $11.99
- Milo 1kg. $5.99 LIMIT 2
- Nescafe Classic 210g. $5.99 LIMIT 2

FROZEN MEAT • SEAFOOD • PRODUCE • GROCERIES

- Gusto Ham 10 lbs. $16.99
- Bar-S Ham 10 lbs. $17.99
- Miller Sausage 5 lbs. $15.99
- Chamorro Sausage Reg/Hot 1 lb. $4.99
- Bar-S Bacon 1 lb. $2.99
- Bar-S Hotdog 1 lb. $1.15
- Fish 4 You Crab Meat Stick 16 oz. $1.99
- Ground Beef 5 LBS. $9.99 10 LBS. $17.99
- Bar-S Hotlinks 24 oz. $3.99
- Mackarel/Pike Family Bag $6.99
- Peeled Shrimp SC Brand 1 lb. $2.99
- Ocean Best Marinara Mix 1 lb. $2.49
- Cut Swimming Crab 1.5 lbs. $6.99
- Vega Shrimp 1 lb. $5.50 Limit 1
- Imperial Choice Green Mussels 2 lbs. $6.99 $5.99 (3 DAYS ONLY MAY 27, 28 & 29)
- Chicken Wings 3 lbs. $6.99 /PACK 5.5 lbs. $12.99 /PACK
- Milk Fish $1.39 /LB
- Tilapia 99¢ /LB
- U.S. Extra Large Eggs Dozen $2.39
- Onion 79¢ /LB
- Garlic $2.99 /LB.

- Spam 12 oz. LIMIT 6 ALL FLAVORS $2.69
- Black Label Luncheon Meat 12 oz. (Limit 6) $1.59
- Libby's & Armour Vienna Sausage 5 oz. 69¢
- Beach Cliff Sardines 3.75 oz. $1.09
- Ox & Palm Corned Beef 11.5 oz. LIMIT 6 $2.59
- Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash 15 oz. $1.99
- Hormel Chili No Beans 15 oz. $1.79
- DM Beef Stew 15 oz. $1.79
- Coco Tuna 7oz. $1.19 Limit 6
- 3 Diamond Tuna $1.19 Limit 12
- Coco Mackerel 15 oz. $1.29
- Excellent Bihon 99¢
- Campbells Chicken Noodle Soup 10.7 oz. 99¢
- Cream of Mushroom 10 3/4 oz. $1.09
- Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn 89¢
- Carnation Evaporated 12 oz. (U.S.) $1.39
- Dongwon Seasoned Laver (sushi wrapper) 99¢ /PACK
- AVO Vegetable Oil 1 Gal. $9.99 $8.99 (3 DAYS ONLY MAY 27, 28 & 29)
- Vegetable Oil 5 Gal. LIMIT 1 $32.99
- Wesson 100% Vegetable Oil 64 oz. $5.99
- Golden State White Vinegar 1 gallon $3.49
- Dragon 100% Vegetable Oil 1 Gal. $9.99 $8.99 (3 DAYS ONLY APR. 29, 30 & MAY 1)
- Vlasic Dill Pickles (Wholes) 1 Gal. $6.99
- Kikkoman 1.6 L. $3.99
- Lemon Powder 5.29 oz. $4.99
- Gold Medal Flour 5 lbs. Limit 2 pcs. $3.29
- Korean Flour 2.5 kg. $3.99
- Maseca 4.4 lbs. Limit 1 pc. $4.99
- Sugar Mackerel 15 oz. $2.49
- Morton Iodized Salt 26 oz. 79¢
- Crisco Shortening 3 lbs. $4.99 Vegetable $5.99 Butter
- Big Bowl Noodle Shin Ramyun 115 g. Shrimp Flavor $14.99 16 pcs./case
- Nissin Cup Noodles 27 oz./box all flavors $5.99
- Argo Corn Starch Limit 3 pcs. 99¢
- Kraft Cool Whip 16 OZ. $3.99
- Philadelphia Original Cream Cheese $2.99
- Maxwell House 34.5 oz. $9.99
- Coffee Mate 50 oz. $9.99 $8.99 (3 DAYS ONLY MAY 27, 28 & 29)
- Folgers 33.9 oz. $10.99 $9.99 (3 DAYS ONLY MAY 27, 28 & 29)
- Korean Butane Gas Limit 1 Case $22.99 /CASE (3 DAYS ONLY MAY 27, 28 & 29)
- Foam Cups 51 cnts. $1.99
- Bounty Basic 15 ROLLS $16.99
- Bounty 15 Rolls $20.99
- Foam Plates 125 ct. $7.99
- SUAVE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER (15 OZ.) 2 PCS. $3.00
- Horse Shampoo 1 qrt. $3.00 EACH
- Spoon & Fork No Brand Name 100 cnts. $1.50
- Huggies Big Pack (all size) $20.99
- Luvs Big Pack (All Size) $20.99
- Cottonelle double 24=48 rolls $16.99
- Diamond Foil 200 Sq. Ft. $7.99
- Bottled White Candle (China) 12 pcs/case $14.99 /CASE
- Scott Napkin 250 sheets $3.49
- Joy Ultra Lemon Diswashing 90 oz. $7.99
- Country Time Lemonade 2.33 Kg. $8.99
- Tang 22 qts. $7.99
- Lipton Ice Tea 4 oz. $6.99
- Kool Aid 5 lbs. $8.99
- Sunkist 1 Case Warm Only $6.99
- Whole Chicken Can 50 oz. $5.99
- Chamorro Punch 2L $6.99
- Real Fresh Milk (Reduced/Regular) $21.99 /CASE
- Enfamil Premium Lipil 16x8oz. RTF $41.99 /CASE
- Caprisun Drinks 177ml. $2.99 /BOX
- Miller Lite Beer 12pcs./pack (warm only) $24.00 /CASE
- Coke Regular 24/Case Warm Only $13.99
- Ritz Drink All Flavor (warm only) $12.99
- Kool Aid Jammer 177ml. $2.99 /BOX
- Pepsi 330ml Warm Only $14.99 /CASE All Flavors
- Budweiser/Budlight 24/Case Warm Only $28.99 (3 DAYS ONLY MAY 27, 28 & 29)

FAMILY BAG SPECIAL

BEEF SHANK	$10.95	STEWING CHICKEN	$6.95	BEEF STEW	$12.95
FLANK STEAK	$16.95	TURKEY TAIL (FAMILY BAG)	$4.99	RIBEYE STEAK	$17.95
PORK ADOBO	$10.95	U.S. CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS	$14.99	BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK	$14.95
PORK CHOP	$11.95	BEEF BACK RIBS	$7.95	SMOKED HAM STEAK	$12.95
PORK BELLY	$11.95	BEEF OXTAIL	$16.95	PORK BUTT	$10.95

Business

High energy takes a bite out of economic growth

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economy hit a soft patch in the first three months of this year, caused by a big jump in oil prices, and the impact of those higher prices are likely to weigh on growth for the rest of the year.msg

After growing at an annual rate of 3.1 percent in the final three months of last year, the economy slowed to just 1.8 percent growth in the January-March period.

The Commerce Department is scheduled to revise that figure Thursday. Analysts surveyed by FactSet are looking for an upward revision to around 2.2 percent growth, still a lackluster pace.

Going forward, many analysts believe the economy will perform only slightly better in the current April-June quarter and in the second half of this year. They see overall growth, as measured by the gross domestic product, bumping along at an annual rate just below 3 percent.

"The rest of this year is not going to be a barn burner," said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at the Martin Smith School of Business at California State University. "The higher energy prices are going to continue to cascade throughout the economy."

And in addition to higher energy prices, there are also concerns that the European debt crisis could once again threaten to derail the U.S. economy, just as it did in the spring of 2010.

AP

A sculpture of fuel nozzles stands in front of a convenience store in Lawrence, Kan., Tuesday, May 24, 2011.

Analysts are also concerned about how much of an impact the supply disruptions stemming from the March earthquake and tsunami in Japan will have on U.S. manufacturing, especially factories making cars and electronic products that depend on component parts from Japan.

Some analysts think that Japan's supply chain problems could shave as much as one-half percentage point from growth in the April-June period.

David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York, said he believed economic growth in the current quarter will come in at an annual rate of 2.5 percent, little changed from the first quarter.

He said he looked for growth in the second half of the year to strengthen slightly to around 3 percent as the manufacturing supply disruptions ease and auto plants and other factories get back to full production.

Wyss said he saw growth for the whole year at around 2.7 percent, slightly below last year's 2.9 percent growth.

Guam to host affordable housing symposium

An affordable housing symposium will be held from June 2 to 3, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

Developers, engineers, government officials, planners, lenders, nonprofits involved in housing, realtors, architects, universities, and consultants are invited to the symposium.

"Join this symposium to help shape the future of housing in Guam. Guam needs more affordable housing, and the upcoming military buildup makes it even more critical," a press release from the organizer reads.

While Guam escaped the foreclosure crises sweeping other parts of the country, it faces the potential for immense housing shortages, strained infrastructure, and energy shortages.

Careful planning is needed to help ensure that new housing is energy efficient, resistant to severe weather, constructed in areas that limit environmental impacts, and include the proper mix of affordable rental and ownership to meet the needs of tomorrow.

At this year's symposium, presenters will discuss variety of housing challenges and potential solutions, and join in a dialogue on our next steps. Some of the issues to be discussed include: Land availability Infrastructure improvements Mass transit Socioeconomic issues Financing resources Development incentives Legislative policy

Register today at: http://www.frbsf.org/community/resources/2011/0602-Affordable-Housing-Symposium/index.html. ***(PR)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Disney withdraws Navy SEAL trademark application

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Walt Disney Co. said Wednesday that it has withdrawn its application to trademark the phrase "SEAL Team 6," the elite unit that killed Osama bin Laden, after the Navy moved to protect its rights and the entertainment giant endured a wave of criticism and late-night jibes. Disney sought the trademark rights on May 3, two days after U.S. operatives raided a luxury compound in Pakistan and killed the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks. Disney's ABC subsidiary wanted to develop a TV show along the lines "NCIS" and "JAG," which are also real-life Navy units, and would have focused on the drama and heroism of the special forces members.

Yahoo CEO vows to clean up Alibaba mess in China

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yahoo Inc. CEO Carol Bartz found herself in a familiar position Wednesday: assuring stock market analysts that she will clean up a mess damaging the long-slumping Internet company's market value. The latest challenge to confront Bartz in her nearly 2 1/2 year-tenure emerged two weeks ago. That's when Yahoo jarred investors by informing them of an abrupt change affecting the value of its 43 percent stake in Alibaba Group, one of the leaders in China's rapidly growing Internet market. Alibaba had spun off a potential jewel—its online payment service Alipay—into a separate company controlled by its CEO, Jack Ma, without giving Yahoo anything in return.

Businesses cut orders for durable goods in April

WASHINGTON (AP)—Businesses cut back on their orders for heavy machinery, computers, autos and airplanes in April, reducing demand for long-lasting manufactured goods by the largest amount in six months.

Orders for durable goods fell 3.6 percent, and a key category that serves as a proxy for business investment was down 2.8 percent, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday.

The weakness was widespread across a number of industries as the impact of supply disruptions stemming from the Japanese earthquake in March rippled through U.S. manufacturing.

Demand for autos, auto parts, steel, computers and electronic equipment all fell, and those declines were attributed in part to difficulty in getting critical component parts from Japan, where manufacturing has been disrupted by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami and nuclear plant disaster.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW11-IFB-010

CONSTRUCTION OF STAGE AT TANAPAG BEACH PARK, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Stage at Tanapag Beach Park, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **May 13, 2011** at DPW Technical Services Division 1353 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizen or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **June 2, 2011**, 1:00 p.m. local time at the project site located at Tanapag Beach Park, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **June 7, 2011** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, DPW 1353 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW11-IFB-010"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time **June 14, 2011**. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than1:00 p.m. local time, **June 14, 2011**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 14, 2011**, and must be received no later than **June 23, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 1:00 p.m. local time, **June 28, 2011**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. local time, on **June 17, 2011**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulation Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety (**90**) Calendar days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (**$100.00.00**) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RE-ADVERTISEMENT OF RFP11-CRM-083

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 23, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY ASSESSMENT FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT IS AVAILABLE AT THE CRM FRONT DESK OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY CONTACTING CRM AT (670) 664-8305, OR EMAILING ***rachel.zuercher@crm.gov.mp.***

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO MS. RITA C. CHONG-DELA CRUZ AT (670) 664-8315 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **JUNE 13, 2011.**

PUBLIC LAW 15-95 LOCAL PREFERENCE ACT, AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118, DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT.

/S/ RITA C. CHONG-DELA CRUZ
ADMINISTRATOR, CRM

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DPW/ED-089

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 14, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PROVISION OF FOUR (4) DIESEL COMMERCIAL WOOD CHIPPERS FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - ENERGY OFFICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD LOCATED ON THE THIRD (3RD) FLOOR OF THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA OFFICE #315, SUSUPE OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO **fourwoodchippers@recovery.gov.mp.**

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MS. ALFREDA CAMACHO VIA EMAIL TO alfreda.camacho@recovery.gov.mp OR FAX TO (670) 234-3016 **NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JUNE 02, 2011.**

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN WHOLE FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) OF 2009. THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **MARTIN C. SABLAN**
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ **MICHAEL J. ADA**
CNMI ARRA LEAD

/s/ **THELMA B. INOS**
DIRECTOR OF ENERGY

Nation

Powerful storms pound several central US states

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Powerful storms roared through middle America again on Wednesday, with weak tornadoes touching down in isolated spots and severe thunderstorms threatening such strikes in several states.

The National Weather Service issued tornado watches and a series of warnings in a dozen states, stretching northwest from Texas though the Mississippi River valley to Ohio.

"Everybody's working as fast and furious as possible," said Beverly Poole, the chief meteorologist at the National Weather Service's office in Paducah, Ky., which covers southeastern Missouri and southern Illinois. "This is just a wild ride."

There were no immediate reports of deaths from the new round of storms, though authorities reported dozens of minor injuries following brief tornado touchdowns in Missouri and Indiana.

Wednesday's storms followed a deadly outbreak Tuesday in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Kansas that killed at least 15 people. The nation's deadliest single tornado since 1950 killed 125 on Sunday in the southwest Missouri city of Joplin.

Heavy rain, hail and lightning pounded Memphis on Wednesday night as a tornado warning sounded. Menacing clouds showed some rotation, but there were no confirmed reports of tornadoes touching down.

Southern Indiana authorities said at least 12 people were treated for non-life-threatening injuries after a tornado touched down along U.S. 50 east of Bedford, flattening homes, barns and other structures in its path.

Senate moves Patriot Act toward extension

WASHINGTON (AP)—Squeezed against a deadline, the Senate late Wednesday moved past a standoff over a four-year extension of the anti-terror Patriot Act before part of it expire.

An agreement to hold a test vote early Thursday was the first progress all week toward resolving an impasse between Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and tea party favorite Rand Paul, R-Ky., before three provisions of the act expire at midnight Thursday. Just before he closed the Senate on Wednesday night, Reid said there likely would be votes on amendments to the extension.

That could go a long way toward meeting Paul's demand that Reid make good on a promise earlier this year to hold a full debate on proposed changes to the post-9/11 law, which empowers the government to find terrorists on American soil. Paul and other civil libertarians of both parties say the Patriot Act should be reconsidered or repealed outright because it risks infringing free speech and guarantees against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Reid

The legislation would extend three expiring provisions until June 1, 2015.

The provisions at issue allow the government to use roving wiretaps on multiple electronic devices and across multiple carriers and get court-approved access to business records relevant to terrorist investigations. The third, a "lone wolf" provision that was part of a 2004 law, permits secret intelligence surveillance of non-U.S. individuals without having to show a connection between the target and a specific terrorist group.

Paul did not respond to a request for comment late Wednesday. But officials of both parties close to the negotiations said it was now likely that the bill would to pass the Senate and the House on Thursday and be flown to Europe for President Barack Obama's signature by the midnight deadline.

The prospect of the law's expiration wasn't quite the nail-biter its supporters suggested.

If the act expired, the government would be unable to get court warrants for new investigations. But investigators still could get court authority for foreign intelligence probes that were already under way before the provisions expired.

The government seeks warrants for business records less than 40 times a year, on average, Todd Hinnen, acting assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's national security division, said in congressional testimony in March. Between 2001 and 2010, the government has sought roving wiretap authority in about 20 cases a year on average, Hinnen added.

ACROSS THE NATION

Former street preacher gets life in Smart case

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Nearly nine years after she was abducted at knifepoint from her bed, Elizabeth Smart watched Wednesday without showing any emotion as a federal judge ordered a street preacher to spend the rest of his life in prison for kidnapping and raping her while holding her captive for months. The sentencing of Brian David Mitchell closed a major legal chapter in the heartbreaking ordeal that stalled for years after Mitchell was declared mentally ill and unfit to stand trial in state court. "I know that you know what you did is wrong," Smart told Mitchell as he sang quietly in the courtroom. "You took away nine months of my life that can never be returned." Dressed in a houndstooth checked skirt, ivory jacket and pearls, Smart took the witness stand for only about 30 seconds and confronted Mitchell in court for the first time.

Judge: Ariz. shooting suspect mentally incompetent

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—The man accused of wounding Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in a deadly rampage lowered his head to within inches of the courtroom table Wednesday. When he lifted it, he began yelling, angry and loud. Federal marshals had to drag Jared Lee Loughner out of the packed federal courtroom. Minutes later, he was in a nearby room and, over a closed-circuit TV, could watch as U.S. District Judge Larry Burns declared him incompetent to stand trial. Mental health experts concluded that the 22-year-old college dropout suffers from schizophrenia. Burns ordered Loughner to a federal facility in Missouri for up to four months, where doctors will try to give him enough treatment to bring him to a point where he understands the case against him.

Man charged in NH church rape case testifies

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—A New Hampshire man accused of raping and impregnating his children's 15-year-old baby sitter in 1997 took the stand in his defense Wednesday, acknowledging he fathered her baby but saying he did not force himself on her. The case has drawn wide attention because of accusations that the pastor of the Baptist church both attended made the girl apologize to the congregation for getting pregnant out of wedlock, then helped move her to the home of a church family in Colorado and arranged to put the baby up for adoption. Concord police were forced to shelve their investigation into the rape allegation when they could not locate the girl for questioning. They recently found her through online posts and reopened the case.

Asia

Thousands evacuate as typhoon skirts PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Thousands of people along the eastern Philippine coastline were moving to temporary shelters Thursday as a powerful typhoon packing strong winds and plenty of rain roared toward the country's northeast.

Typhoon Songda was not expected to make landfall but will skirt along shores with winds of up to 93 miles (150 kilometers) per hour and rainfall of 1.2 inches (30 millimeters), the government weather bureau said.

"It has a big radius, so it can affect many areas even if it does not make landfall," said forecaster Mario Palafox.

About 20 typhoons hit the Philippines every year, killing hundreds of people and destroying crops despite government efforts to minimize casualties and damage by ordering early evacuations.

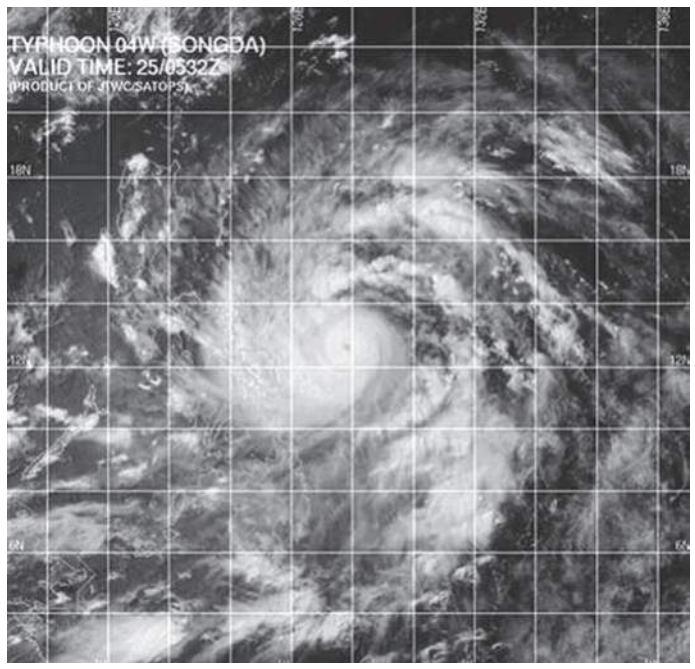
In central Albay province, Gov. Joey Salceda sent military trucks to begin moving 250,000 residents from coastal and landslide-prone villages and areas in the path of debris from the Mayon volcano. He also offered 11 pounds (five kilograms) of rice as an incentive for each family that evacuates.

Government offices in the region were closed and flights canceled. More than 7,000 people were stranded in ports after the coast guard barred sea travel in areas with typhoon warnings.

In other provinces leading up to the northwest, officials have collected rubber boats and food supplies and put rescuers on standby.

"Local government officials have enough time to prepare, so we hope we have" no casualties, presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said.

President Benigno Aquino III left on a visit to Thailand on Thursday but instructed officials to send him regular updates.



AP

This multispectral satellite image provided by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center shows Typhoon Songda, on Wednesday, May 25, 2011, at 0532 Greenwich Mean Time.

NATO pushes Taliban back in east Afghan district

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Airborne NATO and Afghan soldiers expelled Taliban fighters Wednesday from a government building they occupied in a remote eastern district and forced them to flee to surrounding mountains, a local official said, the latest fighting in a region bordering Pakistan's lawless tribal area.

The quick strike came in the Nuristan province in the country's east. The NATO-Afghan force pushed Taliban fighters back after they seized control of half of the district, kicking them out of the government building just a few hours after they overran it, Gov. Jamaludin Badar said.

As coalition forces came under fire, they called in airstrikes, killing at least 10 Taliban fighters, NATO said in a statement.

Though NATO declined to comment on the troops used in Wednesday's battle, they likely were U.S. soldiers, as NATO's eastern regional command is comprised mostly of American forces.

ASIAN BRIEFS

IAEA probing nuclear accident in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—The head of a United Nations nuclear fact-finding mission says he has no concerns about working with the Japanese government as his team investigates what happened at the crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi power plant. Michael Weightman, who is also Britain's top nuclear safety inspector, says the mission is receiving full cooperation from the government and answers to all its questions. The team was organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency and arrived in Japan on Tuesday. The experts met with government officials on Wednesday, including Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano.

Dalai Lama turns down ceremonial role

DHARMSALA, India (AP)—The Dalai Lama on Wednesday turned down pleas from the Tibetan community to accept a ceremonial role in the Tibetan government-in-exile after giving up his position as political leader. The Tibetan parliament is discussing amendments to its constitution that are required after the 75-year-old Dalai Lama announced he wanted to end his political role. He remains the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists. Tibetans have voted in Harvard legal scholar Lobsang Sangay as the head of their government-in-exile, but they feel that they should still be able to use the Dalai Lama's influence with world leaders to further the Tibetan cause. To that end, they wanted to write an official ceremonial role for the spiritual leader into the constitution.

Chartered plane crash kills 10 in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—A small chartered plane being used as an air ambulance to ferry a patient to a New Delhi hospital crashed Wednesday into a residential neighborhood on the outskirts of the Indian capital, killing 10 people, government officials said. According to the Press Trust of India, the airplane lost control during a dust storm and plunged from about 8,000 feet (2,440 meters). The aircraft had seven passengers on board and was just minutes from landing when it slammed into a residential building in the city of Faridabad, south of New Delhi, Pradeep, a local magistrate who uses only one name, told the New Delhi TV channel.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-028
SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced Independent Power Producers (IPP), to supply electrical energy generated from commercially proven Solar Photovoltaic System (SPS) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC seeks responses from qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one, or more, respondent(s) to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install generation SPS facilities that best fit the CUC's requirements.

The Scope of Services requested in the Request for Proposal shall include, but not be limited to, securing sites, all permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully operational SPS Generating Facilities. Selected IPP(s) will be responsible for operating and maintaining all facets of the Generating Facility (ies) and for generating the required output as described in the Request for Proposal.

The Scope-of-Services will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested Offeror, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 AM to 4:00 PM), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **May 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at CUC Power Plant No. 1 Administration Building, Lower Base Industrial Park, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-11-028 "Solar Photovoltaic Generation"** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **September 29, 2011 at 10:00 AM** (ChST). A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **June 14, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via address email.wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-010

Supply of Utility Billing, Financial and Payroll Computer System
ADDENDUM NO. 1

May 26, 2011

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is issuing the following amendments to CUC-RFP-11-010, Supply of Utility Billing, Financial and Payroll Computer System:

1. **One (1) original and Five (5) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-010, Supply of Utility Billing, Financial and Payroll Computer System" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **July 07, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

   A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **June 03, 2011 at 11:00 AM (ChST),** at CUC Main Conference Room No. 10, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

   All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than June 10, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST) to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email address charles_warren@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

2. **Scope-of-Work, Page 26, at letter c:** "Considering the SO 1 requirements which CUC must meet, an aggressive schedule for the design and execution of the project is required four months after the Notice to Proceed. Does the Proposed schedule meet this requirement?" AMENDED AS FOLLOW: "Considering the SO 1 requirement which CUC must meet, an aggressive schedule for the design and execution of the project is requested."

3. **Scope-of-Work, Page 5, section 2. Introduction:** AMENDED AS FOLLOW: "Systems must be in place and operational by: As soon as possible".

4. **Appendix C** is not required, as price is part of Appendix B. Appendix C stricken from appendices.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-010

Supply of Utility Billing, Financial and Payroll Computer System

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from utility billing software development firms, for the Purchase of Utility Billing Software and preventative maintenance tracking software for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The work includes a needs assessment; training; project management; data conversion; and application. Deliverables may include a quotation for equipment to support the project and a performance report.

The bid package & specification will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested offeror, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **June 03, 2011 at 11:00 AM (ChST),** at CUC Main Conference Room No. 10, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-11-010, Supply of Utility Billing, Financial and Payroll Computer System"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **June 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 06, 2011 to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email address charles_warren@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-11-033

CONSTRUCTION OF PRE-FABRICATED WAREHOUSE BUILDING

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced construction firms for the construction of CUC Pre- Supplied Building in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The general work requirement includes the construction of foundation and assembly of pre-supplied/fabricated metal building structure.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $ 200.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-033, Construction of Warehouse Building, CUC Rota" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O.Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **June 02, 2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST)**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. CUC also would require a copy of the submittal to be emailed at the same time of the bid closing, to Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Assistant, via email: mika_muna@cucgov.net. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A pre-bid conference, followed by a site visit, will be held on **Monday May 16, 2011 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Administration Office in Sinapalo II, Rota.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current Federal minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 20, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Ms. Sherri Hadley, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email sherri_hadley@cucgov.net; Mr. Charles Manglona, Deputy Director, CUC Rota –charles@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the Invitation for Bids in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-036

GASIFICATION OR WASTE TO ENERGY GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced Independent Power Producers (IPP), to supply electrical energy or synthetic diesel - produced from commercially proven Waste to Energy (WTE) or Gasification systems, for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC seeks responses from qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one respondent to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install Gasification or Waste to Energy generation facilities that best fit the CUC's requirements. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) will be the feedstock.

The Scope of Services requested in the Request for Proposal shall include, but not be limited to, securing sites, all permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully operational Gasification or Waste to Energy Generating Facilities. Selected IPP(s) will be responsible for operating and maintaining all facets of the Generating Facility (ies) and for generating the required output as described in the Request for Proposal.

The RFP package and Scope-of-Service will be e-mailed to all interested Offeror, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $ 200.00 for one set; by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **June 21, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-11-036 " Gasification or Waste to Energy Generation"** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **August 30, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Late submissions will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 19, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via email address wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-037

EXHAUST HEAT RECOVERY PROJECT
ORGANIC RANKINE CYCLE (ORC)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced companies or IPPs, to supply electrical energy produced from commercially proven Exhaust Heat Recovery systems (Organic Rankine Cycle), for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. The heat recovery system will be tied to the exhaust systems on diesel engines at Power Plant No.1 in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC seeks responses from qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one respondent to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install Exhaust Heat Recovery systems that best fit the CUC's requirements.

The Scope of Services requested in the Request for Proposal shall include, but not be limited to, any permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully the Exhaust Heat Recovery Systems.

The RFP package and Scope-of-Service will be e-mailed to all interested Offeror, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $ 200.00 for one set; by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **June 22, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST),** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-11-037 " Exhaust Heat Recovery Project"** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **August 18, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Late submissions will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **July 19, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via email address wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Egypt to open Rafah crossing permanently

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's decision Wednesday to end its blockade of Gaza by opening the only crossing to the Hamas-ruled Palestinian territory this weekend could ease the isolation of 1.4 million Palestinians there. It also puts the new Egyptian regime at odds with Israel, which insists on careful monitoring of people and goods entering Gaza for security reasons. The Rafah crossing will be open permanently starting Saturday, Egypt's official Middle East News Agency announced. That would provide Gaza Palestinians their first open border to the world in four years, since Egypt and Israel slammed their crossings shut after the Islamic militant Hamas overran the Gaza Strip in 2007.

500 Mexican villagers flee drug cartel violence

MORELIA, Mexico (AP)—Drug cartel violence has prompted as many as 500 frightened villagers to flee hamlets in the western state of Michoacan and take refuge at a shelter set up at a local swimming park, an official said Wednesday. It is at least the second time a large number of rural residents have been displaced by recent drug violence in Mexico. In November, about 400 people in the northern border town of Ciudad Mier took refuge in the neighboring city of Ciudad Aleman following cartel gunbattles. That shelter has since been closed and most have returned to their homes.

Brazilian leader suspends anti-homophobia campaign

SAO PAULO (AP)—Brazil's president suspended an anti-homophobia campaign Wednesday that had been planned to begin at schools this year because she thought the videos and pamphlets weren't appropriate for children. Presidential secretary Gilberto Carvalho met with legislators representing religious groups that have opposed the campaign and emerged to say that Rousseff decided to delay the program. He did not provide details on what material in the videos and pamphlets was considered inappropriate by Rousseff. The materials were to be distributed to children of varying ages across Brazil.

Yemen's president vows no retreat as battles rage

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemen's embattled President Ali Abdullah Saleh vowed Wednesday he would not step down or allow his impoverished nation to become a "failed state" even as urban combat between government troops and armed tribesmen engulfed parts of the capital.

Both sides raised the specter of civil war as the three-day death toll rose to at least 69. The latest violence comes just days after a failed Arab mediation effort to end the three-month uprising and ease Saleh from power.

After nightfall, residents reported heavy shelling that appeared to come from outside the city, targeting residential areas. The crackle of heavy gunfire could be heard in different parts of the city.

In the Arhab region about 20 miles (32 kilometers) northwest of Sanaa, a brigade of Saleh's presidential guard clashed with local tribesmen—showing that the fighting was spreading outside the capital. Six government soldiers were killed and 21 injured in that fight, an army official said, speaking on condition of anonymity under military rules. It was unclear if any tribesmen were killed.

So far, 20 government troops, and 46 of al-Ahmar's fighters have been killed—bringing the death toll since Monday to at least 69. Scores more were injured.

AP

Anti-government protestors, shout slogans during a demonstration demanding the resignation of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in Sanaa, Yemen, Wednesday, May 25, 2011.

Saleh's statement Wednesday—read by spokesman Ahmed al-Soufi in a meeting with tribal allies—ruled out a voluntary departure and blasted U.S.-backed efforts to negotiate his exit after 32 years of authoritarian rule.

"I will not leave power and I will not leave Yemen," the statement said. "I don't take orders from outside."

Saleh also threatened that his ouster could turn Yemen into a haven for al-Qaida—directly touching on U.S. fears that chaos in Yemen could open room for more terrorist footholds. The Yemeni branch of al-Qaida is linked to the attempted Christmas Day 2009 bombing of an airline over Detroit and explosives found in parcels intercepted last year in Dubai and Britain.

"Yemen will not be a failed state. It will not turn to al-Qaida refuge," the statement said. Saleh also said he would work to prevent the recent violence from "dragging the country into a civil war."

U.S. President Barack Obama has called on Saleh to transfer power—a change from an administration that once considered the Yemeni ruler a necessary ally against terrorism.

In Celebration of her New Life

†Aurea Arriola Borja

Lovingly known as "Nan Aring"

was born on July 19, 1926 and called to eternal life on May 20, 2011 at the age of 84

In her new life, she now joins her:
PARENTS: *†Ignacio Diaz & †Ana Cabrera Arriola Borja*
SISTER: *†Magdalena Borja Palacios*
BROTHERS/SISTERS IN-LAW:
†Antonio Santos Palacios, †Jose Concepcion Muna, †Gregorio Muna Quitugua & †Calistro Castro Ada, †Olympia Selepeo Borja, †Rosa Camacho Borja.

Her memories will live forever in the hearts of her:
SISTERS: *Consolacion Borja Muna, Luisa Borja Quitugua & Josepha Borja Ada*
BROTHERS: *Eugenio Arriola Borja & Carlos Arriola Borja*
SISTER IN-LAW: *Zenaida Borja*

She will also be missed by her numerous Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, Godchildren & Friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is being celebrated at the Santa Soledad Church in Kagman at 6:00pm immediately followed by the Holy Rosary. Viewing and last respects will be at the Borja's Funeral Home in San Jose/Oleai on Friday, May 27, 2011 from 6:30am and the Holy Rosary will begin at 7:00am. Her remains will then be escorted from the Borja's Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral at 8:30am. Responso and Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am. Internment service will follow immediately at the Mount Carmel Cemetery in Chalan Kanoa. Your thoughts and prayers is greatly appreciated.

Please join us in prayers
Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghilissow & Salamat Po
Ginen Todo I Mañelu yan I Familia

Are pre-1967 borders indefensible for Israel?

JERUSALEM (AP)—During a swing through Washington this week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu repeatedly said his country's pre-1967 lines are "indefensible."

A total withdrawal from the West Bank, a strategic highland looming over central Israel, would certainly leave the Israeli heartland more vulnerable to attack or invasion. But some experts say that long-range missiles, weapons of mass destruction and cyberwarfare mean that in the modern world the greater risks lie elsewhere—especially if a future Palestine is demilitarized.

The border issue is now at the heart of the latest tensions in Mideast peace efforts. Seeking to break an eight-month deadlock, President Barack Obama last week proposed that Israel commit to establishing a Palestinian state based on its frontiers before the 1967 Middle East war, when it captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip. The Palestinians claim all three areas for their state.

Israel withdrew unilaterally from Gaza in 2005. But Netanyahu says a similar pullout from the other areas, even as part of a negotiated peace deal, would jeopardize his country's security on a different scale.

A return to those lines would leave Israel with a waistline just nine miles (15 kilometers) wide at its narrowest point, Jerusalem surrounded on three sides by Palestinian land and the country's main international airport just a few miles (kilometers) away from the border. If hostilities break out, Israel's largest cities could be vulnerable to rocket fire and other attacks.

Yet experts note that Israel waged the 1967 war—the most decisive military victory in its history—from these same lines. And today, its overwhelming military superiority leaves it in a strong position to defend itself against any external threat.

"Geography only plays a limited role in war. What you really don't want is people who hate you on the other side," said Martin Van Creveld, a military historian at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

He said Netanyahu's insistence that Israel maintain control of the Jordan Valley, a strategic area along the West Bank's eastern border with Jordan, would be better for Israeli security but is not "entirely necessary."

Even Obama doesn't expect a pullback to the exact 1967 lines. In a pair of speeches, he said a peace treaty should be "based on the 1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps."

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police say man left tot in cart to go shoplifting

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—A West Texas man is charged with theft, marijuana possession and child abandonment after police say he left his 2-year-old daughter alone in his car while he went into an El Paso department store to steal some DVDs. The El Paso Police Department said in a statement Wednesday that 21-year-old Victor Lee Gonzalez left his toddler in the car with the motor running while he went into a K-mart store, took several DVDs and left without paying. According to the statement, he was detained at the store Tuesday for suspicion of theft and later was found to have nearly six grams of marijuana. Gonzalez is free on $3,100 bond. The police statement did not say if Gonzalez had an attorney and a listed number could not be found for him.

Ohio judge gives defendants homework assignments

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—A judge in Ohio gives defendants what sounds like homework assignments as a part of probation sentences. Lucas County Common Pleas Judge Stacy Cook in Toledo has ordered offenders to write five-page reports on topics including teen violence, drug use and head injuries. The judge tells The Blade newspaper her goal is to get defendants thinking about why what they did was wrong and how it hurt others. The Blade reports Cook has told as many as 30 people to write papers since she took the bench in 2007. She reads all of them and says it seems that the number of writers who've later returned to her court for serious probation violations has been low. Lawyer Richard Hasbrook agrees with that assessment. He's the public defender in Cook's courtroom.

Dog nurses 2 ligers after tiger mom abandons them

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese zoo official says two rare cubs born to a male lion and a female tiger are being nursed by a dog after they were abandoned by their mother. Cong Wen of Xixiakou Wildlife Zoo in eastern China says four cubs called ligers were born to the lion and tiger earlier this month. She said Tuesday the tiger mother fed the ligers for four days but then abandoned them for unknown reasons. Two died of weakness. Cong said staff at the zoo in Shandong province found a dog who had just given birth to feed the surviving cubs. She said the two cubs had trouble at first drinking milk from the dog but are now used to it. Ligers are rare and are sometimes bred in zoos by mistake.

Woman touting moon rock for $1.7M stung by NASA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—She promised the moon, for a sky-high price. He wasn't buying. A woman who tried to sell what she said was a rare piece of moon rock for $1.7 million was detained when her would-be buyer turned out to be an undercover NASA agent, officials said Friday.

The gray rocks, which are considered national treasures and are illegal to sell, were given to each U.S. state and 136 countries by then-President Richard Nixon after U.S. moon missions and can sell for millions of dollars on the black market.

NASA investigators and Riverside County sheriff's deputies detained the woman after she met Thursday with an undercover NASA investigator at a restaurant in Lake Elsinore, about 70 miles southeast of Los Angeles, the sheriff's office said. The investigation was conducted over several months.

Authorities swooped after the two agreed on a price and the woman, whose name has not been released, pulled out the rock.

NASA planned to conduct tests to determine whether the rock came from the moon as the woman claimed.

"We don't know if it's lunar material," said Gail Robinson, deputy inspector general at the space agency.

Joseph Gutheinz, a University of Phoenix instructor and former NASA investigator who has spent years tracking down missing moon rocks, said a lunar curator at a special lab at Johnson Space Center would carry out the testing. Among the substances the rock could contain is armalcolite, a mineral first discovered on the moon and named for Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins, who was on the Apollo 11 lunar mission crew.

The woman has not been arrested or charged. It was unknown how she obtained the rock or came to the attention of NASA.

Gutheinz said the woman could face theft charges if the rock is genuine, or fraud charges if it is not.

About 2,200 samples of lunar rocks, core samples, pebbles, sand and dust—weighing about 840 pounds—were brought to Earth by NASA's Apollo lunar landing missions from 1969 to 1972. A recent count showed 10 states and more than 90 countries could not account for their shares of the gray rocks.

Gutheinz said most purported moon rocks offered for sale on the Internet are bogus, though authentic moon rocks can be purchased if they came to Earth in a meteorite.

NASA houses 70 percent of its lunar rock and soil samples at Johnson Space Center, and another 14 percent are in New Mexico. The rest are either on loan for study or display—or are unaccounted for.

In 2009, the Rijksmuseum in the Netherlands confirmed that one of its rocks was a fake and not an artifact collected by the Apollo 11 crew.

A rock presented to Honduras was recovered in a 1998 NASA sting after a Miami collector offered $5 million for it.

Compressed air turns NZ trucker into human balloon

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A New Zealand truck driver said he blew up like a balloon when he fell onto the fitting of a compressed air hose that pierced his buttock and forced air into his body at 100 pounds a square inch.

Steven McCormack was standing on his truck's foot plate Saturday when he slipped and fell, breaking a compressed air hose off an air reservoir that powered the truck's brakes.

He fell hard onto the brass fitting, which pierced his left buttock and started pumping air into his body.

"I felt the air rush into my body and I felt like it was going to explode from my foot," he told local media from his hospital bed in the town of Whakatane, on North Island's east coast.

"I was blowing up like a football," he said. "I had no choice but just to lay there, blowing up like a balloon."

McCormack's workmates heard his screams and ran to him, quickly releasing a safety valve to stop the air flow, said Robbie Petersen, co-owner of the trucking company.

He was rushed to the hospital with terrible swelling and fluid in one lung. Doctors said the air had separated fat from muscle in McCormack's body, but had not entered his bloodstream.

In Humble Gratitude

Nothing in life is more emotionally devastating than the lost of a Mother, our beloved mother

†Nicolasa Reyes Quitugua

We the family, wish to extend our sincerest Si Yu'us Ma'ase and thank you to all our friends, relatives and extended families for the compassion, comfort and thoughtful prayers and considerate acts of grace during our most difficult moment of sorrow. We acknowledge your kindness and comforting words of encouragement and graceful support.

Fittingly a sense of appreciation is extended to the Doctors, Nurses and Staff at CHC for the care of our beloved. Similarly our family extend our profound thank you to Father Sixto and our Techa Mrs. Rita C. Guerrero who officiated the evening masses and holy rosaries respectfully at San Vicente Church.

We will remember you in our prayers.

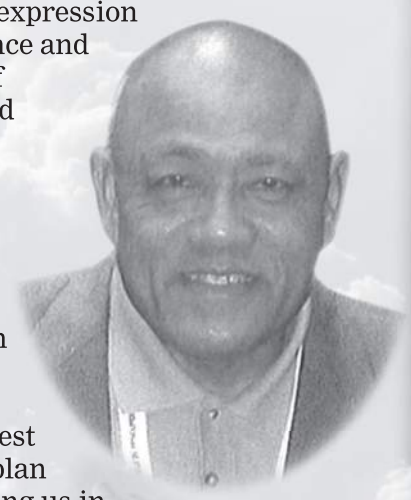
Si Yu'us Ma'ase and God bless you all.
Daniele O. Quitugua, Children, Brothers, Sisters and Family

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

† Jose Bisonia Avila, Jr.

wish to express our most heartfelt appreciation to all our relatives and friends for their kind expression of love, sympathy, personal assistance and support during this difficult time of sorrow in the passing of our beloved in the caring hands of our Creator.



Our deepest appreciation to Dr. Smith, Dr. Sullivan and Dr. Aldan for their professional services. Thank you to the nurses and staff of CHC for the care and compassion they've extended to" Jun" and the NMI Cancer Society for their assistance and support. Our sincerest gratitude to our techa, Mr. Greg Sablan for the valuable time he spend leading us in prayers, and most of all Fr. Jugene Espeleta of Kristo Rai Church and Fr. James Gould of St. Jude Parish. We would also like to thank the Kantaye Kristo Rai Choir and the St. Jude Choir.

And to All – who have supported us in one way or another, for your presence at the nightly rosary, the Eucharistic Celebration of his life and placing him to rest and most especially for your offering of mass and prayers. The many acts of kindess and generosity gave us the strength and courage to endure our loss.

Thank you - Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Auria Borja Avila, Children and Families

Science & Technology

Retirement planning for all ages

By REID KANALEY
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Retirement planning is no small task. Ideally, you start it in your 20s—though not everyone has the forethought. For the rest of us, these sites provide some direction.

■ **Social Security Online**

http://www.ssa.gov/retire2

Social Security may have an uncertain future, but for now the retirement planner at the Social Security Online site is not a bad place to start investigating the steps to take to prepare for old age. Links go to instructions for applying for benefits and tell when to do so. An eerie life-expectancy calculator will tell you, statistically, how much longer you can expect to live. (The calculator, we noticed, grants at least another year, even if you're already 110.)

■ **Money.cnn.com**

http://money.cnn.com/retirement

How to save. Should you save aggressively now? How do I figure out my net worth? When does a reverse mortgage make sense? The retirement page at Money.cnn.com provides "what to do" plans for people by age category—20s and 30s, 40s, 50s and 60-plus. Though you may not need it, there's advice for "How to handle a million-dollar windfall," and it's nice to dream.

■ **SmartMoney.com**

http://www.smartmoney.com/retirement

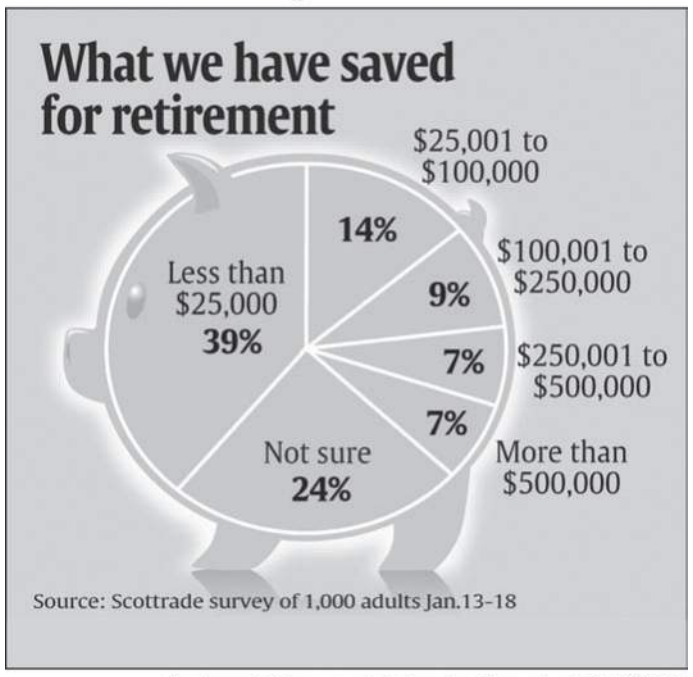
This is another magazine site with some entertaining information about retirement and living into old age. There's an article documenting the trend in "retirement getaways" offered by retirement communities trying to entice new residents, and one with advice for job-hunting seniors. A separate section deals with the issues in caring for older family members, such as choosing a nursing home and managing a career if you are also a family caregiver.

■ **Boomer guide**

(http://www.kiplinger.com/guides/boomers)

The baby boomer retirement guide at Kiplinger.com has information about retiring abroad, tax considerations in retirement, easing—instead of crashing—into retirement and considering an annuity as a "do-it-yourself pension." Like many sites, including those above, this one has a wealth of calculators for figuring what your own retirement goals should be and how much you need to be saving to get there. Also find out your tolerance for investment risk, and how to set up a budget.

USA TODAY Snapshots®



By Anne R. Carey and Alejandro Gonzalez, USA TODAY

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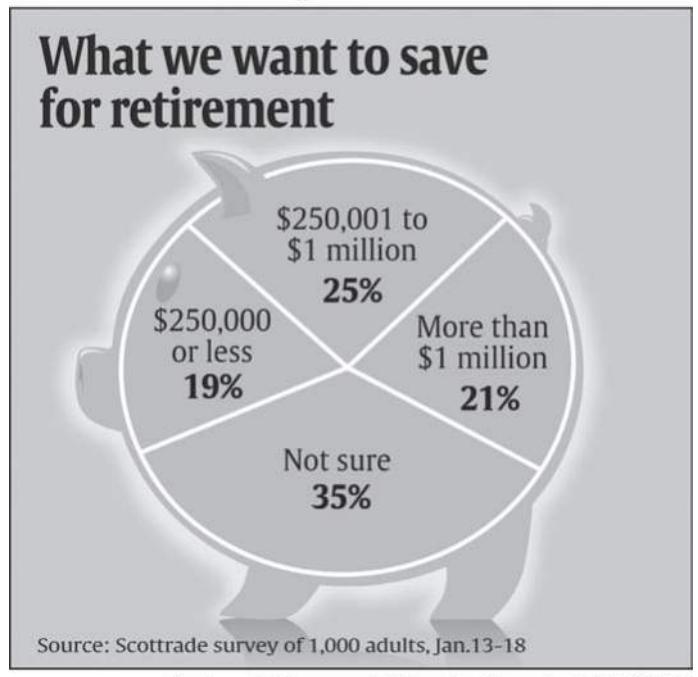

By Anne R. Carey and Alejandro Gonzalez, USA TODAY

Staking out your PC's spyware

By NOAH MATTHEWS
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Spybot Search and Destroy is a freeware program for Windows PCs that tracks and destroys spyware, malicious little programs that track your visits to Internet sites and reports them back to marketers of stuff you probably don't need and, in most cases, don't want. Spybot does its work quietly in the background, as if you had a CIA agent staking out your PC. Thousands of spyware threats don't stand a chance.

After a quick install, you can back up your Windows registry and browser files, just in case. Spybot scans your computer for existing threats, and then you can safely remove them. That done, you can immunize your PC against known spyware. An advanced mode has more choices that most casual users won't be interested in running. An update feature lets you download the latest definitions.

Chances are very good that if you are running a commercial program such as Norton Internet Security, you won't need Spybot. I'm running Internet Security, and Spybot didn't find any spyware in my browsers and Windows itself. Still, it never hurts to have redundant spyware programs, in case one program misses a bad actor.

Spybot Search and Destroy, minus the CIA agent, is free, and can be downloaded from www.safer-networking.org. The current version is 1.6.2; a 2.0 beta also is available, but may still have a few bugs. The author of the program asks for a small donation if you find the program useful and you want to assign it a permanent spot on your hard drive. Many of the authors of freeware devote their waking hours to writing their programs, so a donation is much appreciated.

For other educational, business and utility programs, please visit my website (www.washingtoncd.net). My e-mail address is washcd@washingtoncd.net.

STUMP THE GEEKS

The mystery of the vanishing inbox

By ANNE KRISHNAN
THE NEWS & OBSERVER (RALEIGH, N.C.)

QUESTION: My new PC runs Outlook 2010 for email. I am having a problem with my inbox: It sometimes disappears, and I cannot find the email I have received that day or the day before. Sometimes I can see all the mail I have received that day and in the past few days, but quite often after I send an email, my inbox will appear, but with no received messages in it. I am a hoarder and like to keep most of my messages for at least a couple of weeks. Can you help?—J.M., Durham, N.C.

ANSWER: It may go without saying, but when your messages disappear, first make sure that you're actually looking at your inbox and not your "Unread mail" folder.

There are two other likely answers, according to Hal Hostetler, a broadcast engineer who posted on the forums at http://answers.microsoft.com:

If your messages frequently disappear after you have read them, you may have your Outlook set to show only unread messages in your inbox. For this, click on the "View" tab, then "Change View," and make sure "Unread Mail" is not selected.

You also could have an issue with your antivirus application.

According to Hostetler, McAfee's email scanner is known to randomly delete messages. Disabling the email scanner doesn't help with either McAfee or Norton; the program must be uninstalled, then re-installed without the email scanner.

Hostetler advises that the easiest way to do this is to download and run McAfee's Removal Tool (instructions at http://tinyurl.com/geeksmcafee) to completely uninstall the software, then reinstall without the scanner.

■■■

APPS FOR KIDS: About a month ago, I wrote about iPad apps for preschoolers and younger. A couple of readers wrote in with suggestions that I'd like to share.

Kathy Lies of Goldsboro, N.C., writes that "by far the best app I have seen at all is called Sound Touch." This app offers pictures and sounds of 360 different objects, organized by type (animals, birds, vehicles, musical instruments and household items). Kathy's 2-year-old grandson has learned an array of instruments and can now identify them by sound when he's listening to music. The app, produced by Sound Touch Interactive, is $2.99.

For older kids, Dianne Dunlap suggests Teach2000, a freeware learning program that also has options of downloading to an iPad. She uses it to create interactive quizzes for a first-grade class, including reading words, math and alphabetizing. Options include flashcards, multiple choice, puzzles, and even a game in which the child has to type the answer before the alien gets him or her. The iPad app, miniTeach, also is free.

On a different note, Mary DeCoster with the Durham County Health Department asked me to pass along the message that the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends limiting screen time to less than two hours of quality programming per day.

Think you can stump the geeks? Send your high-tech question to stumpthegeeks@newsobserver.com. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. Individual replies are not given.

Recovering from hacker attack

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I was recently the victim of a hacker, but only found out about it from a neighbor who received the same e-mail scam that you wrote about last week: It falsely said I was mugged and stranded with no money or cell phone and asked for help.

Afterward, I was able to reset my Yahoo e-mail password to take control of my account, and Yahoo was able to restore my missing contact list.

Since then I've been trying to correct my e-mail return address, because anyone who replies to me has their e-mail sent to a fake address that is just one letter different than mine. I tried to change the fake address in my account, but it didn't help.

What should I do?—Sharon Pierskalla, Brooklyn Center, Minn.

ANSWER: Yahoo acknowledges that its accounts get hacked sometimes. For useful advice on dealing with a hacked Yahoo e-mail account, go to http://tinyurl.com/3nqanyx/. To ask Yahoo for help with your specific problem, go to the "Yahoo Mail Abuse Form" at http://tinyurl.com/433ycdz/.

■■■

Q: About a year ago, my Windows Vista PC began to freeze when I tried to open a Microsoft Excel or Word file within the first 10 minutes after starting the computer. The hard drive can be heard running a lot when this problem occurs.

If I try opening a file later, it works.

Is something in the startup sequence getting in my way?—Terry D'Souza, Woodbury, Minn.

A: Your PC probably doesn't have enough random access memory (RAM) for the software you're using.

The continuous running of the hard drive probably indicates that the PC is making up for the shortage of RAM by temporarily storing some files on the hard disk, which slows down the start-up process.

If you try to open files while all this is going on, the PC freezes for lack of "working memory"—the memory that has to be left unoccupied so the PC can carry out its tasks. When you wait until the flurry of start-up activity is over, you can open your files normally.

You can check your PC's RAM by going to "Start," "Control Panel" and clicking the "System" icon. If you have less than two gigabytes of RAM, I'd say that's your problem.

If you want to add RAM yourself, which isn't difficult if you consult your PC owner's manual, you can buy it online at websites including kingston.com and ramseeker.com. Enter your computer model into these sites to get the right type of RAM. Otherwise, take it to a repair shop, which will supply the RAM chips and the installation.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Life & Style

‘American Idol’ crowns McCreery as its winner

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Scotty McCreery won the “American Idol” battle of the fresh-faced country crooners Wednesday, pulling more of a record 122 million-plus viewer votes than competitor Lauren Alaina.

“I never in my wildest dreams,” said McCreery, a 17-year-old with a strikingly deep, old-soul voice that contrasts with his youth. “I’ve got to thank the Lord first ... he got me here.”

McCreery of Garner, N.C., and Alaina, 16, of Rossville, Ga., represent the first all-country finale and the youngest duo ever to compete on “Idol,” which is in its 10th season.

The exuberant, big-voiced Alaina performed on Tuesday’s final sing-off despite a vocal cord injury that needed medical treatment. She received raves from the judges, who said she won the night.

But the consistently popular McCreery, who’d never been at risk of elimination, claimed the title and a record contract.

The teenager seemed overwhelmed as he took the stage for a celebratory version of “I Love You This Big,” halting to embrace his parents in the audience, Alaina and others. Then he playfully stuck his tongue out, trying to catch falling confetti.

“It felt like a dream,” McCreery said backstage in his dressing room. “It still hasn’t sunk in yet, and I don’t think it will for a while. I’m on top of the world right now.”

He expected the contest would be close after Tuesday.

“Lauren Alaina just went out there and did her thing, especially that last song,” McCreery said. “I thought she took it there. It’s been a nerve-wracking day, I can tell you that much.”

His victory continued a recent pattern: He’s the fourth male in a row to win the Fox TV contest, with 2007’s Jordin Sparks, 17, the last female “Idol.”

Kelly Clarkson and Carrie Underwood, two of the four female winners, have proved the winners with the most successful recording careers.

This season’s vote total was more than three-quarters-of-a-billion, Seacrest announced Wednesday. For Fox, it’s affirmation there’s still life in the series that’s had a long ratings reign as No. 1 but has steadily dipped in weekly viewership and seen its audience age—something that makes advertisers balk.

Last year’s season-ender, which included Simon Cowell’s farewell, drew 24 million viewers. Through 2008, the winner’s crowning routinely drew more than 30 million viewers.

McCreery commented backstage Tuesday on the loyalty of country fans, and they clearly gave the show a boost. Fox didn’t announce the number of votes for the much lower-key contest between winner Lee DeWyze and runner-up Crystal Bowersox in 2010.

In 2009, when winner Kris Allen and Adam Lambert duked it out, more than 100 million votes were cast.

This season, Fox dropped the minimim age for contestants to 15—Alaina’s age when she auditioned last year—which may also have brought fresh viewer interest.

The show remains a hot promotional platform, with Seacrest helping some of the visiting pop stars push either movies (Black’s new “Kung Fu Panda 2”) or a Las Vegas show (Gladys Knight). Lady Gaga, whose new album “Born this Way” is out this week, was another performer.

The grandest bid for attention came from Broadway’s troubled “Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark,” with composers Bono and The Edge performing with the musical’s star, Reeve Carney.

Other high-wattage stars who performed Wednesday at the Nokia Theatre included Beyonce and Tony Bennett.

McCreery and Tim McGraw sang “Live Like You Were Dying,” while Underwood returned to “Idol” to pair with Alaina on “Before He Cheats.”

Judge Jennifer Lopez—draped in a scanty outfit and shaking her famous booty—took the stage to dance while husband Marc Anthony sang, turning the night into a family affair.

On Tuesday, Alaina’s tunes were Underwood’s “Flat on the Floor,” Pam Tillis’ “Maybe It was Memphis” and “Like My Mother Does,” an emotional tribute to her mother in the audience.

McCreery sang his future single, “I Love You This Big,” along with his version of Montgomery Gentry’s “Gone” and George Strait’s “Check Yes or No.”

“These kids are so young ... I just go, `Wow.’ They embody what this whole show is about,” judge Randy Jackson said backstage Tuesday.

AP

Winner Scotty McCreery, left, reacts with finalist Lauren Alaina at the “American Idol” finale on Wednesday, May 25, 2011, in Los Angeles.

Hines Ward part of a string of ‘Dancing’ athletes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It’s become a proud athletic tradition: Winning “Dancing With the Stars.”

When Hines Ward took home the mirrorball trophy on the hit show Tuesday, he joined its winningest group of alumni: Athletes. Professional athletes have taken the “Dancing” title six times in the past 12 seasons.

Since the show premiered stateside in 2005, three Olympians, two football stars and one race-car driver have been named “Dancing” champs. Three other NFL stars and an Olympic skater finished the popular show in second place.

Ward, a Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver and former Super Bowl most valuable player, credits his professional dance partner, Kym Johnson, with their dance victory. He plans to keep his new mirrorball right next to his Super Bowl trophy.

“It’s special,” the 35-year-old said, glittery trophy in hand. “With football, it takes all 53 guys. With this mirrorball, it was just Kym and I together in the studio putting in the hours. I’m just glad I didn’t let her down.”

Ward consistently posted high scores throughout the 10-week competition, and judges praised his showmanship and dedication.

“We’ve had some great footballers on `Dancing With the Stars,’ but I don’t think any compare with Hines Ward,” head judge Len Goodman said during the season finale.

Ward was up against Kirstie Alley and Chelsea Kane for the season 12 title. The actresses finished second and third respectively.

His commitment was especially evident after Johnson suffered a serious neck injury during rehearsals two weeks ago. The couple triumphantly returned to the dance floor, earning perfect scores for their performance and drawing tears from Ward, Johnson and judge Carrie Ann Inaba.

“I’m so impressed with you, the way you partnered with her through that routine,” Inaba said. “The connection was beyond what we ask for in a dance routine.”

Through misty eyes, Ward said, “I was just elated that she was out there dancing three days after that horrific injury that she just had.”

The couple earned five perfect scores for their final six dances.

Besides Ward, the other athletic “Dancing” champs are NFL star Emmitt Smith, speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno, IndyCar driver Helio Castroneves, figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi and gymnast Shawn Johnson. Football stars Jason Taylor, Warren Sapp and Jerry Rice were runners-up on the show, as was Olympic skater Evan Lysacek.

AP

In this publicity image released by ABC, Kim Johnson and Hines Ward pose with their trophy’s after scores from the judges were combined with the audience votes to name Hines Ward and Kym Johnson champions of “Dancing with the Stars” and winners of the coveted mirror ball trophy, Tuesday May 24, 2011.

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Oba: The Last Samurai
Friday thru Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:50
Monday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Tues thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
Yutaka Takenouchi, Sean McGowan
Drama • NR

Synopsis
The fall of Saipan during WWII is viewed from Japanese and American perspectives in “Oba, the Last Samurai,” an engrossing portrait of Capt. Sakae Oba, whose loyalist band continued fighting for four months after hostilities officially ceased. Carefully balancing Oba’s guerrilla campaign with a U.S. officer’s mission to flush him out, this handsomely mounted pic captures the mindset of Japanese soldiers and civilians coming to terms with an unthinkable defeat.

Kung Fu Panda 2
Friday thru Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Monday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Tues thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Jack Black, Angelina Jolie
Children’s Family • Rated PG

Synopsis
Jack Black and Angelina Jolie return to lend their voice talents to the Kung Fu Panda franchise with this second entry from DreamWorks Animation and Paramount Pictures. Jennifer Yuh Nelson directs from a script by Jonathan Aibel and Glenn Berger.

The Hangover Part 2
Friday thru Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
Monday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Tues thru Thurs 4:25 7:25
Bradley Cooper, Zack Galifianakis
Comedy • Rated R

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Strange Tides
Friday thru Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
Monday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Tues thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Johnny Depp, Penélope Cruz
Adventure • Rated PG 13

Priest
Friday thru Sunday 7:10 9:35
Monday 7:10
Tues thru Thurs 7:10
Paul Bettany, Cam Gigandet
Horor, Western • Rated PG 13

Hoodwinked Too!
Friday thru Sunday 1:10 4:10
Monday 1:10 4:10
Tues thru Thurs 4:10
Heidi Klum, Wayne Newton
Comedy • Rated PG

Thor
Friday thru Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Monday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Tues thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman
Action • Rated PG 13

Fast Five
Friday thru Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Monday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Tues thru Thurs 4:30 7:30
Vin Diesel, Paul Walker
Action • Rated PG 13

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Gaga blitzes the market with landmark campaign

NEW YORK (AP)—The release of a pop star's album usually comes with the typical cross-marketing splash—strategic magazine covers, a few major TV appearances, and perhaps a cosmetics or fashion deal to remind the public a new project awaits.

Yet the social media-powered blitz connected to this week's drop of Lady Gaga's third album, "Born This Way," is bordering on epic, with partnerships ranging from Starbucks to FarmVille, and virtual giveaways of the album's 17 tracks. It also represents the kind of bold, new business model that could help rejuvenate a deflated music industry.

Gaga already had a slew of magazine covers, from Rolling Stone to Vogue, and appeared on every high profile show, from Oprah Winfrey to "American Idol" to "Saturday Night Live," as well as her own HBO concert special.

But she hasn't stopped there. Starbucks—typically home to easy-on-the-ears artists like Emmylou Harris—is selling her album as well as launching a "digital scavenger hunt" for Gaga-inspired goods; Google Chrome debuted a commercial with Gaga with a track from the album; the online fashion outlet Gilt Groupe partnered with Gaga to offer Gaga-inspired clothing and VIP performances; Best Buy is giving away the album to anyone who purchases a mobile phone with a contract; and Zynga, creator of the popular online game "FarmVille," created "GagaVille," which allowed fans access to exclusive Gaga songs.

AP

Lady Gaga tapes an episode of "106 and Park" at BET Studios in New York, Monday, May 23, 2011.

As if that wasn't enough, on Monday, Amazon.com sold "Born This Way" for just 99 cents as a promotion for their new music cloud service, creating a demand so strong it disrupted the online retailing giant's servers for a time.

And it looks like the campaigns are paying off: Gaga's album is estimated to sell anywhere between a half-million to a million copies when the top album charts are revealed next week.

"It was really about expanding the distribution on this album and going into as many non-traditional retail partnerships and non-traditional marketing partnerships as possible," Gaga's manager, Troy Carter, told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "Just with the diminishing music labels, you want to find quality partners where you know you can reach new audiences and being able to push boundaries as well."

Among the promotions connected with "Born This Way" is the Disney Mobile Tapulous game Tap Tap Revenge, which gives fans access to the entire album and other content if they buy the game,"Born This Way Revenge," for $4.99. It's the first time Tapulous has put out 17 tracks with a game for that price.

Comedians mark Oprah's final show with punch lines

NEW YORK (AP)—While many reacted to the final episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" with tears and emotion, comedians found punch lines.

On "Jimmy Kimmel Live," Kimmel sang goodbye by performing the song "End of the Road" with R&B group Boyz II Men. The tune was renamed "It's So Hard To Say Goodbye (to Oprah Winfrey)."

David Letterman, whose up-and-down relationship with Winfrey has long been chronicled, earlier lamented not being invited to the farewell gala in Chicago.

"Honest to God," said Letterman, "Every day, I get out of bed and think: `What can I do to suck up to Oprah?'"

Many turned to social media to contemplate a post-Oprah world.

Among the notable comments made on Twitter were these:

■ "Apparently Oprah is responsible for life on our planet as we know it."—Kevin Nealon.

■ "I miss both Oprah and Osama. Is there a way to pair them up for something?"—Michael Ian Black.

■ "Oprah Winfrey is so powerful that she had the Rapture postponed until after her final show airs."—Joan Rivers.

■ "It seems so unfair! Without Oprah, how are publishers going to continue their cross-fingers/hope-to-win-the-lottery business plan?"—John Hodgman.

■ "Jesus will probably be the surprise guest. She got him started."—Paula Poundstone.

■ "What can I say about Oprah that she hasn't already said about herself?"—Justin Stangel, co-executive producer of CBS' "Late Show."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Kim Kardashian is engaged to Kris Humphries

NEW YORK (AP)—Another hoops star will join the Kardashian clan. People magazine reported Wednesday that reality star Kim Kardashian is engaged to her boyfriend of six months, New Jersey Nets forward Kris Humphries. Sister Khloe Kardashian and Los Angeles Laker Lamar Odom were married in 2009. Kim Kardashian told People that she was in "shock" when she entered her Beverly Hills, Calif., home last week to discover Humphries on bended knee with "will you marry me" spelled out in rose petals. Humphries, 26, gave Kardashian, 30, a 20.5-carat Lorraine Schwartz diamond ring.

Hit 3-D erotic comedy to screen in North America

HONG KONG (AP)—A hit Hong Kong 3-D erotic comedy that has wowed viewers in Asia has secured U.S. and Canadian distribution, as the pioneering film's international rollout gains momentum. China Lion Film Distribution says it bought the North American rights to "3D Sex and Zen: Extreme Ecstasy" at the film market at the recently concluded Cannes Film Festival. The company said in a statement Wednesday that it was still deciding on the date and size of the release. China Lion Film Distribution is a Chinese-New Zealand joint venture that specializes in releasing Chinese films in the U.S. and Canada.

Food Network star Sandra Lee has five-book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Food Network star Sandra Lee has a full plate of publishing projects. Hyperion and the Disney Interactive Media Group announced Wednesday that Lee has agreed to a five-book deal, including two cookbooks, an entertaining/lifestyle book and two food-themed novels, recipes included. Lee, the girlfriend of New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, is also working on a series of 15 online videos that will coincide with the fall 2011 release of her lifestyle book and first cookbook.

'Lil Boosie' accused of prison smuggling scheme

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—State police say rapper Torrence "Lil Boosie" Hatch is facing allegations he schemed to try to smuggle codeine syrup into the state penitentiary at Angola. Lt. Doug Cain says Hatch, who is serving time on an unrelated drug charge and awaiting trial on a murder charge, sought help from two fellow Baton Rouge residents in the alleged scheme. Hatch was booked Wednesday on charges of conspiracy to introduce contraband into a penal institution and inciting a felony. Last year, Hatch was indicted after he allegedly paid someone to kill a 35-year-old man who was fatally shot in his home through a window, authorities said. Two others also face charges in that death.

Broadway 'Spider-Man' album to go on sale in June

NEW YORK (AP)—Despite an unharmonious start that turned the "Spider-Man" musical on Broadway into a late-night talk show joke, a cast album will go on sale June 14. The 14-song album "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" written by U2's Bono and The Edge will be produced by Steve Lillywhite and will be released by Interscope Records. The songs will feature Reeve Carney in the role of Peter Parker, Jennifer Damiano as Mary Jane, T.V. Carpio as Arachne, and Patrick Page as the Green Goblin. They'll be backed by a 20-member orchestra. The first single, "Rise Above 1," will be available Wednesday night.

Family's Southern drawls are not music to California ears

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: While I am not from the South, many of my relatives are. They all were raised in medium to large cities, not rural areas. I'm embarrassed when they use crude terms and call their parents "Ma" and "Pa" in public. These are well-educated people, but they come across sounding like hicks and buffoons.

They think it's funny, but no one outside our family does. If someone laughs with them, it's because of embarrassment or discomfort. No one else is willing to speak up and when I try to, they make me feel like I'm a spoiled brat.

If these people were from rural areas or uneducated/uncultured I'd understand, but they're not. The sound of their "fake hickness" is like fingernails on a chalkboard! Please help.

KEEPING IT REAL IN LAGUNA BEACH, CALIF.

DEAR KEEPING IT REAL: I'm sorry that visits from your relatives are so painful for you. However, I see nothing wrong with calling one's parents "Ma" and "Pa" if those are the names they have been called all their lives. Believe me, I have heard parents called much worse.

The best advice I can offer would be for you to grow a thicker skin and, if that doesn't work, spend less time with your relatives. With your attitude, you'll be doing them a favor.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Should I be a bridesmaid in my best friend "Carla's" ex-husband's wedding? I'm still friends with him, which is fine with Carla. I have also become quite close to his fiancee, "Jenny." We have a lot in common and have been hanging out for some time. Jenny has asked me to be in her wedding.

I haven't talked to Carla yet to see how she'd feel about it. I don't feel like she'll be completely honest with me. Would I be stabbing her in the back if I'm in the wedding? I need advice, and quick—the wedding is soon!

FRIENDS WITH EVERYBODY

DEAR F.W.E.: Because you're concerned about Carla's reaction to your being a part of her ex-husband's wedding, you should address your question to her. My gut reaction is that if it feels to you like it could be stabbing her in the back, it might be perceived that way.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What is the protocol for office romances? I have seen so many flings and love affairs go on. Sometimes it's fine, but other times it has caused a big distraction.

A supervisor dating a subordinate is probably frowned upon, but what if they're in different departments? Should an office romance be kept secret, or out in the open so rumors won't spread? I have never been a part of this, but I have seen plenty. What's right and wrong?

CURIOUS IN THE CUBICLE

DEAR CURIOUS: There is no "protocol." Most companies discourage office romances because they're a distraction and make workers less efficient. If they happen between a supervisor and a subordinate and it doesn't work out, it could lead to accusations of sexual harassment and an expensive lawsuit. So while the temptation may be there, what's "right" is to avoid them and what's "wrong" is to indulge in one because it's risky business.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: When closing window blinds for the night, is it normal or proper to close them with the blades or slats in the upward or downward position? My wife and I disagree on this. I maintain they should be closed in the upward position. What do you or the experts say?

IN THE DARK IN TEXAS

DEAR IN THE DARK: I have never encountered this question, so my staff and I experimented with the mini-blinds in our office, which has many windows. Tilting the slats up blocked more light than when we tilted them down. However, this is not a question of what is "normal" or "proper." It's a matter of what works best for you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

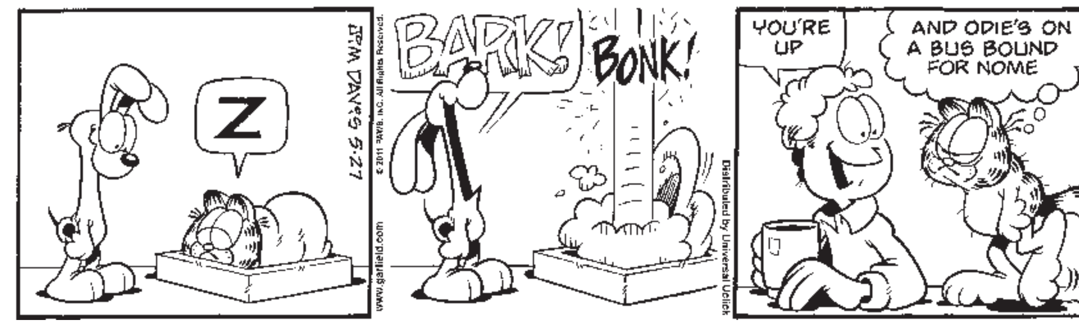
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

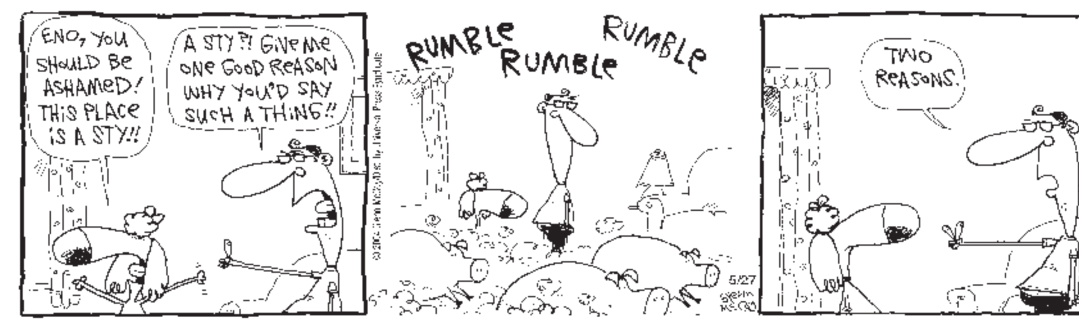


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

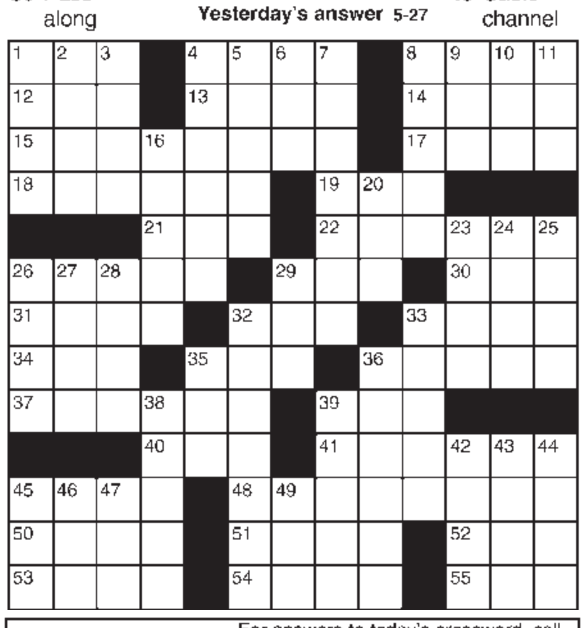
ACROSS
1 Intimidate
4 Support
8 Harbor structure
12 Altar constellation
13 Ladd or Alda
14 Desire
15 Violin virtuoso Niccolo
17 Cash-drawer contents
18 Solemn promise
19 Youngster
21 Dress in
22 Sesame paste
26 Internet-related
29 Apiece
30 Cacophony
31 Clarinet insert
32 Chum
33 Daniel Craig role
34 — glance
35 Matterhorn, for one
36 Pass along
37 One of the Marshall Islands
39 Stimpy's cartoon partner
40 Morsel
41 Stay away from
45 Needle case
48 Summer squash
50 Bronx cheer
51 Birthright barterer
52 Banned bug spray
53 Diva's solo
54 Scruff
55 Curvaceous character?

DOWN
1 Dogpatch creator
2 Exam format
3 Carry on
4 Maine city mentioned in "King of the Road"
5 Extraterrestrial
6 Paint container
7 Plied needles
8 "— the Raven, ..."
9 Coffee vessel
10 Time of your life?
11 "Of course"
16 Put in
20 Scull prop
23 "American —"
24 1492 ship
25 Race place
26 Grouch
27 Bigfoot's cousin
28 Neb
29 Young seal
32 One of Santa's team
33 Dugout furniture
35 Blackbird
36 Save
38 Resort island near Majorca
39 Summarize
42 Stash
43 Tackles' teammates
44 Mental acuity
45 Mesozoic, e.g.
46 Pitch
47 9mm submachine gun
49 Cable channel

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	C	H	E		B	O	P	S		F	D	A
L	O	O	K		A	U	R	A		R	O	B
F	R	E	E	T	H	R	O	W		E	W	E
A	D	R	O	I	T			E	V	E	N	T
			U	S		F	I	D	E	L		
G	I	F	T		A	R	C		T	O	S	S
E	R	R			N	E	O			A	P	T
M	E	E	T		T	E	N		D	D	A	Y
		E	A	S	E	D		B	E			
M	A	F	I	A			S	U	N	H	A	T
E	V	A		F	R	E	E	S	T	Y	L	E
S	O	L		E	I	R	E		A	P	E	X
A	W	L		R	O	A	D		L	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 5-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chris Colfer, 21; Joseph Fiennes, 41; Adam Carolla, 47; Louis Gossett Jr., 75

Happy Birthday: You will sway others to engage in whatever you do because of your courage and do-or-die attitude. Keeping your goals clear will enable you to bypass any obstacles put in your way. Balancing your life will be what gives you the strength to overcome. Your numbers are 7, 12, 22, 26, 33, 35, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your emotions will be difficult to control if you don't point them in the right direction. You'll be unpredictable and a little explosive. Focus more on those things that allow you to be expressive and passionate. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): There will be too much riding on the unknown for you to make an honest assessment of what's going on at work or at home. Do something you find relaxing and you will bypass the turmoil going on around you. Prepare to do a little damage control. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): If you meet someone you feel comfortable with, jump in and see where it leads. You may feel like settling down but don't let that be your motivation to fall in love. Enjoying the person is what's important. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Help others and volunteer your services for a worthy cause and you will avoid overreacting to situations that are changing so fast your head spins. Separate your opinions from the equation when dealing with someone unreasonable. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Live, laugh and have a little fun. Don't let anyone stop you from engaging in an activity, trip, event or conference that interests you. Consider whether or not your current relationships are healthy for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Get together with friends, family or peers who share your interests. A short trip or an event that allows you to explore something of interest will lead to new friendships or a love relationship—if you are in the market for romance. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll be drawn to people who have something interesting to offer in terms of knowledge, spirituality or experience. A partnership can develop that allows you to use your attributes. Don't let baggage from a past relationship spoil your chances with someone new. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll be pulled toward someone who has your best interests at heart. Give in to what's being offered. You don't always have to be in control or mysterious about the way you feel. Put your heart on the line and open up for a change. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Whether you plan to make a residential move or you fix up your digs, make it work for you. Any challenge will give you a thrill and jumpstart your competitive nature. Don't hesitate to say what's on your mind. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't get coerced into doing things for outsiders when you should be focusing on your home, family and personal life. Love is in the stars. Your assets will grow if you invest in what you know and do best. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone you click with will have something to offer that can lead to a workable partnership. Figure out a way to combine the skills you both have to come up with something profitable. It's best to keep this connection as a business venture. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Investments should take top priority. Look for a way to increase your skills or knowledge. You can come up with a plan that allows you to infuse what you have a passion for with what you do well. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are reliable and ready for whatever you face. You are a strong advocate of justice. You do your best, regardless of barriers.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7	2		4	9		
		1	5		9	8		
4	8			2			9	6
2	1			8			7	4
		2	8		5	3		
		9	1		3	6		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	1	6	9	7	8	5	3	4
7	8	9	5	3	4	6	2	1
4	3	5	2	1	6	8	7	9
1	4	7	8	2	3	9	6	5
9	2	8	6	5	1	7	4	3
6	5	3	7	4	9	1	8	2
8	7	1	4	9	2	3	5	6
3	6	4	1	8	5	2	9	7
5	9	2	3	6	7	4	1	8

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/26

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'TRUE BLOOD' (TV SERIES) Solution: 7 letters

L	O	D	E	F	B	O	C	Y	L	D	F	V	B	P
S	O	L	E	A	O	O	H	D	S	O	A	A	O	S
U	A	U	L	A	M	W	S	A	R	A	W	R	O	H
P	C	L	I	E	R	N	L	T	R	A	T	E	K	E
E	A	A	D	S	I	B	E	E	B	E	M	N	S	R
R	M	Y	P	L	I	N	O	L	R	A	S	A	A	I
N	P	M	L	L	B	A	A	R	E	G	U	O	R	F
A	E	O	C	E	A	K	N	G	N	V	M	E	P	F
T	C	T	R	M	L	N	E	A	N	E	O	A	R	Y
U	I	R	T	A	I	I	F	I	V	A	N	N	B	R
R	Y	R	V	O	K	L	U	O	W	N	M	M	A	O
A	D	E	O	O	L	Q	L	A	A	O	A	E	T	R
L	N	R	O	O	A	R	H	I	L	H	L	A	O	R
O	A	S	E	P	T	S	E	W	A	K	E	L	N	O
S	E	I	R	E	T	S	Y	M	N	N	A	M	U	H

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Alan, Andy, Anna, Ball, Baton, Bauer, Books, Camp, Caplan, Collins, Comedy, Dark, Dearborne, Drama, Fangs, Fantasy, Fortenberry, Fowler, Hamby, Horror, Human, Klaveno, Louisiana, Love, Lowe, Manganiello, McMillian, Meal, Merlotte, Mysteries, Novel, O'Hare, Pale, Paquin, Porter, Roots, Rouge, Shaw, Sheriff, Sookie, Supernatural, Wake, Woll

Yesterday's Answer: Downloads

The NEW Treasury 9 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.95 postage and handling each ($14.90 total each) U.S. funds only for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-591-2097. Order online at Uclickpuzzles.com (contains 130 puzzles, 30 of which are the larger 20" x 20" size)

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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Coast-to-Coast Real Estate Apartments

•2- Bedroom •Furnished
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•$400 Monthly •Utilities not included

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Jim @ 285-7571
or e-mail: junglejimsaipan@gmail.com

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Female, 36 years, Guest Worker, Good Looking, Dependable is looking for Male companion. Must be Single, Gentleman, Kind, around 45 to 60 years of age and can help each other in the future. If interested please call 286-6118.

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Saipan Tribune
235-6397

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REWARD, good only within 2 weeks from May 26 until June 10, 2011.

Please call 483-8866

Maydeline Dela Cruz Vidal /
Joe Hill Law Office
PMB 217 PPP Box 10000, Saipan MP 96950
Pro Se,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Maydeline D. Vidal Petitioner, vs. Joseph V. Jabonete Respondent.	FCD Civil Action No. 10-0458 SUMMONS

TO: Joseph V. Jabonete

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Joe Hill Law Office whose address is P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 30th day of August, 2010.

/s/Clerk of Court

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unset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

1-bedroom $250.00, 3-bedroom $700.00, 4-bedroom $900.00. Miha Village. Garapan, new build, yard. Good condition. 286-4710

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Looking for used cars. Good condition. 2000 yr. & up. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

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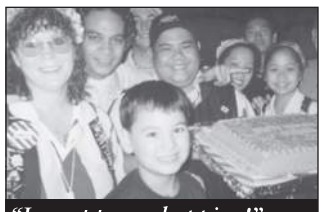
Obyan: 929 sq.m.
Kagman III: 780 sq.m.
Also, 60 gallon fish aquarium with pump. Call 256-4770

WHATZIT Solution:
Talk through your hat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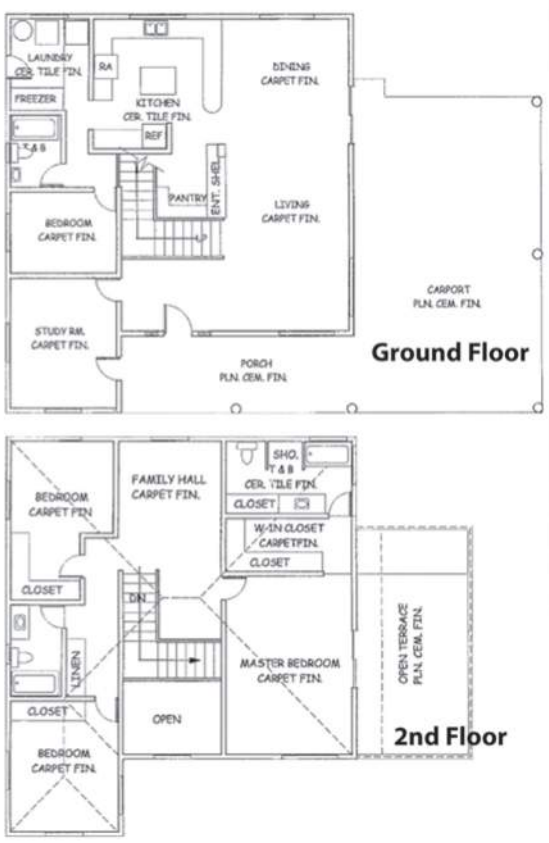
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

HOUSE FOR RENT or SALE



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Find today's solution in this section

Nowitzki, Marion send Mavs back to NBA finals

DALLAS (AP)—After all the incredible shots Dirk Nowitzki has hit this postseason, it was his vintage stuff—a straightaway 3-pointer and a pair of free throws—that put the Dallas Mavericks back in the NBA finals.

Nowitzki continued a tremendous roll for him and the Mavs by capping yet another fourth-quarter comeback with a go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:14 left, sending the Mavericks to a 100-96 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Wednesday night that closed out the Western Conference finals in five games.

After clawing back from down 15 with 5:04 left in Game 4, the Mavericks were down by six with 4:37 left in this one when they rallied again, outscoring the Thunder 14-4 the rest of the way.

Dallas has never won a championship, and neither has any of its players. Nowitzki and Jason Terry were part of the only Mavericks team to make the finals, in 2006. They were up 2-0 and leading late in Game 3, but lost the series to the Miami Heat in six games.

Dallas could get another crack at the Heat.

LeBron James and Miami lead the Chicago Bulls 3-1 in the Eastern Conference finals. If the Heat win Thursday night, the finals will begin Tuesday in Miami. If the Bulls win Thursday night, the finals will begin next Thursday in the East winner's city.

"All I can tell everybody is, we ain't done yet," Mavs owner Mark Cuban said during the on-court trophy presentation ceremony. Seconds later, fans began chanting, "Beat the Heat," drowning out coach Rick Carlisle's on-court interview.

As fans were starting to clear out, Terry walked down the tunnel carrying the Western Conference championship trophy over his head.

Nowitzki and Shawn Marion each scored 26 points, and were at their best in the fourth quarter. Nowitzki scored nine in the final period, and Marion had 15. J.J. Barea added 14, Terry scored 12 and Jason Kidd had 10 assists and seven rebounds in a victory that set off the biggest on-court celebration in franchise history.

The only other time the Mavs made the finals, they won in Phoenix. This time, the home folks got to enjoy it, including franchise founder Don Carter, who traded his signature white cowboy hat - the one that used to be featured in the team's logo - for a black hat that read "The Finals 2011" with a Mavs logo and the championship trophy. Fans roared again when the overhead video board showed Nowitzki wearing the hat.

AP

Dallas Mavericks' Tyson Chandler, center, and teammates, from center right, Brendan Haywood, Shawn Marion and Jose Juan Barea look at the NBA basketball Western Conference finals trophy after the Mavericks defeated the Oklahoma City Thunder 100-96 on Wednesday, May 25, 2011, in Dallas.

Russell Westbrook scored 31 points and seemed to be on a mission to force the series back to Oklahoma City. But he had two crucial turnovers during the furious finish.

Kevin Durant and James Harden finished with 23 points apiece for the Thunder, who bowed out with only their second three-game losing streak of the season.

Considering their youth and the experience gained in this series, Oklahoma City can expect to close in on many more titles. But that was little consolation Wednesday night.

The Mavericks' big edge this series was experience, and it showed in the final two games. Age never slowed them, in part because their legs were refreshed by eight days off before the opener. Winning this game is huge because it earns them at least six days off before the finals.

While Dallas had a deep roster of guys bonded by their lack of a title, getting this far is quite a feat considering second-leading scorer Caron Butler was lost to a knee injury on Jan. 1 and Rodrigue Beaubois, the speedy second-year guard being counted on for a breakout season, hasn't played a minute this postseason.

The Mavericks have done it with defense, anchored by Tyson Chandler, and Nowitzki.

Especially Nowitzki.

He averaged 32.2 points this series, including 11.8 in the fourth quarters. He scored in the 40s twice and was sensational in the Game 4 rally. This wasn't his best performance, but he came through when it mattered most, making that crucial 3 and a pair of free throws with 13.3 seconds left for Dallas' final points.

The Mavericks have long been among the NBA's elite, winning 50 straight games for 11 consecutive seasons. However, it's been a bit hollow because they don't have a title to show for it.

For Kidd and Nowitzki, it would pry them from the group of "best players to never win a ring." At 38, Kidd also would become the oldest point guard ever to guide a team to a title—by several years. Then there's Cuban, Dallas' maverick owner, who could silence many of his critics with a title.

The Mavericks certainly have reason to feel like this is their year.

Since blowing a 23-point lead in the final 14 minutes of Game 4 of a first-round series against Portland, Dallas has won 10 of 11 games. The Mavs joined the 1994 Rockets and 2002 Nets as the only teams to squander at least an 18-point lead going into the fourth quarter of a playoff game, and now all three of those clubs have recovered to reach the finals. The '94 Rockets won the title, the '02 Nets (with Kidd) didn't.

Lakers reach deal in principle with Mike Brown

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mike Brown got fired a year ago for winning just about everything but a championship while coaching LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

And that's still just a fraction of the pressure he'll face in his new job in Hollywood.

The Los Angeles Lakers have reached an agreement in principle with Brown to succeed 11-time NBA champion Phil Jackson, the team said Wednesday.

Brown will get a four-year deal worth roughly $18 million, a person with knowledge of the discussions told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the Lakers hadn't yet formally hired Brown.

"We've met with Mike and are very impressed with him," said a statement issued by the Lakers. "In addition, we have an outline for an agreement in place and hope to sign a contract within the next few days."

Brown certainly doesn't shy away from a coaching challenge. After the Cavs dumped him following an otherwise successful five-year tenure, he's moving to a storied franchise with a veteran superstar who's only happy if they're collecting titles in bunches.

Oh, and he's replacing the coach with more rings than anybody in NBA history.

During an interview on ESPN during halftime of Game 5 of the Western Conference finals, Brown said he already had exchanged text messages with Kobe Bryant, who had endorsed Jackson assistant coach Brian Shaw for the job.

Brown is "looking forward to getting to know Kobe and being able to work with him to go and get us a championship," he said.

With a strong interview last weekend, Brown jumped to the front of the line of candidates for the daunting task of succeeding Jackson, who retired earlier this month, with one of the NBA's signature franchises. Brown will be the 22nd coach of the Lakers, whose 16 NBA titles trail only the Boston Celtics' 17 in league history.

The 41-year-old Brown led the Cavaliers to the 2007 NBA finals and went 272-138 with Cleveland, becoming the most successful coach in franchise history while compiling the league's best regular-season record in each of his last two seasons.

It wasn't enough to save his job, but it clearly intrigued Lakers executive Jim Buss, who is changing his franchise's course after an abrupt end to its two-year title reign and Jackson's long-anticipated departure.

Shaw was the favorite candidate among the current Lakers, with Derek Fisher and Andrew Bynum joining Bryant in throwing their support behind him. Fisher tweeted his approval of Brown's arrival late Wednesday.

"Will miss Phil but excited to start a new chapter under Mike Brown," Fisher said. "Looking forward to a different style and energy!!"

The Lakers probably could use new energy after the prolonged farewell to the exhausted Jackson, who was persuaded to return for one last threepeat run after nearly quitting last summer. Jackson retired earlier this month after the Dallas Mavericks swept the Lakers out of the second round of the playoffs.

Buss, the Lakers' executive vice president of player personnel and the son of owner Jerry Buss, appears determined to move past Jackson's sizable legacy. The Lakers tellingly made almost no public fanfare this month about the departure of Jackson, who is dating Jeanie Buss, Jim's sister and fellow Lakers executive.

Into this potentially messy transition steps Brown, a respected tactician with a strong coaching pedigree. Despite his youth, Brown has ample experience with big games and big stars, even if he couldn't guide James to a title.

ESPN, which employed Brown as an analyst this season, first reported Brown had been hired.

Brown was the 2009 NBA coach of the year, but he got fired last spring following the Cavs' dissension-filled exit from the second round of the postseason, and James left for Miami a few weeks later. Although James was critical of Brown's strategies during their final playoff run together, the two-time NBA MVP strongly endorsed his former coach Wednesday.

"Mike Brown is a great coach," James said in Miami, where he's preparing for Game 5 of the Eastern Conference finals. "He brought us success that we hadn't had before in that city, and it started with his defensive concepts. He brought in a defensive mindset that we didn't have. Fifty-plus wins, he was coach of the year, he got us to the (NBA) finals, won us the Eastern Conference finals ... because of him and his coaching staff. I respect him. He definitely helped me become who I am today."

Brown's background in defense apparently intrigues the Lakers, whose last two title runs were built on sturdy defense led by Bryant and 7-foot shot-blocker Bynum, a favorite of Jim Buss. Brown is a former assistant to San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich and Dallas coach Rick Carlisle, who employed Brown as his defensive coordinator in Indiana when Lakers forward Ron Artest was named the NBA's top defensive player in 2004.

Brown said the Lakers would be a "defensive-minded team," saying "I thrive and I love that end of the floor because I believe that's what helps you win championships."

Bryant and his teammates apparently weren't consulted during the coaching search, and Bryant declined to comment on Brown's hiring Wednesday when reached by the Los Angeles Times. Bryant publicly supported Shaw, his former Lakers teammate, but the two-time NBA finals MVP also said the Lakers should find a coach who believes in hard-nosed defense.

At French Open, Djokovic gets 41st win in row

PARIS (AP)—Even if Novak Djokovic is tennis' man of the moment, there's a long, long way to go before he'd approach most of Roger Federer's many accomplishments.

So far to go, really, that it's not worth discussing.

Still, there is one area in which, as of Wednesday, the two men are equal: Djokovic was credited with his 41st consecutive victory—matching the best streak of Federer's career—when second-round opponent Victor Hanescu of Romania quit at the French Open because of a left leg injury.

"I'm not thinking about when this streak—this amazing streak—will end. So I guess that's the right mental approach," said the second-seeded Djokovic, who was serving at 6-4, 6-1, 2-3, 30-love when Hanescu decided to stop playing at Court Philippe Chatrier.

It was a far quieter and less theatrical ending than what transpired a few hours later on Court 1. Sabine Lisicki of Germany was bothered by dizziness and muscle cramps and was carried off on a stretcher, sobbing, after wasting a match point and a 5-2 lead in the third set of a 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 loss to two-time Grand Slam finalist Vera Zvonareva of Russia. Lisicki was treated by a trainer—including a blood-pressure check—during changeovers.

"I hope she feels OK," the No. 3-seeded Zvonareva said. "No matter what, I had to keep doing my job."

AP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Romania's Victor Hanescu during their second round match of the French Open tennis tournament, at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Wednesday, May 25, 2011.

Also reaching the third round: No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark, past champions Francesca Schiavone of Italy and Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia, 2010 runner-up Sam Stosur of Australia, and unseeded Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the United States.

Men's winners included No. 3 Federer, No. 7 David Ferrer of Spain, and three Frenchmen: No. 9 Gael Monfils, No. 13 Richard Gasquet and No. 17 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Federer improved his career second-round mark at Grand Slam tournaments to 42-0 by beating French wild-card entry Maxime Teixeira 6-3, 6-0, 6-2. Teixeira is ranked 181st and never had played a tour-level match until winning in the first round Sunday.

Federer, who counts the 2009 French Open among his record 16 Grand Slam titles, knows what it's like to be the inexperienced kid across the net from one of the game's greats. Back on Oct. 6, 1998, Federer played his sixth career match against Andre Agassi at Basel, Switzerland, and lost 6-3, 6-2.

"You know, on the one hand, that you can't win," said Federer, who went on a 41-match unbeaten run from August 2006 to March 2007. "And if you win, it's like a miracle."

Against Teixeira, Federer won 13 games in a row in one stretch.

"That's when I started panicking," Teixeira said.

Federer's record of 23 consecutive Grand Slam semifinals ended with a loss in the French Open quarterfinals a year ago. If he makes it to the semifinals this time, he could meet Djokovic.

"He has had a lot of streaks and a lot of records that he's broken. I mean, look, he has won the most Grand Slams. He's the most successful tennis player ever. There is not much to say about that," said Djokovic, who beat Federer in the semifinals at the last two major tournaments. "I mean, it's just amazing what he has done throughout his career."

Asked what he needs to do to continue his current run, which began with two Davis Cup victories in December and includes a 39-0 start to 2011, Djokovic replied: "Stay focused, dedicated, motivated. I am still only 24. I have many more years to come. It's been the best five, six months of my career. And I'm very happy with the way I'm playing."

As well he should be.

Only three men in the Open era won more matches in a row, topped by Guillermo Vilas' 46 in 1977. And only one started a season better: John McEnroe began 42-0 in 1984.

Next, though, comes a sterner test than that put forth by the 60th-ranked Hanescu, who has a sub-.500 record this season and for his career. In the third round Friday, Djokovic faces 25th-seeded Juan Martin del Potro, who won the 2009 U.S. Open and nearly beat Federer in the French Open semifinals that year.

"Knowing that Djokovic is the best player this season, that he's trying to beat a record, is one thing," said the 6-foot-6, big-hitting del Potro, who lost all three past meetings with Djokovic, "but I need to stop thinking about it to avoid any additional pressure."

Djokovic, who won the Australian Open in 2008 and this January, and del Potro are the only men other than Federer (12) and Rafael Nadal (nine) to collect any of the most recent 24 Grand Slam titles.

Del Potro missed most of last season after having surgery on his right wrist and more recently has been bothered by a bad hip. But when he's in form, as he was during a 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Blaz Kavcic of Slovenia on Wednesday, del Potro can present problems for any opponent.

"It's going to be a big challenge for both of us," Djokovic said. "Obviously, a great match for people to see."

The two are buddies, and were prompted at their news conferences to discuss the idea of making things more interesting by putting a friendly wager on the line.

Del Potro's response, delivered with a wink: "Of course not. He's much richer than I am."

Djokovic laughed when told about that.

"I will accept any bet. Why not? We can have fun," Djokovic said. "If the bet is a dinner, I will do my best to earn the dinner."

NFL coaches side with players in lockout fight

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—NFLcoaches are teaming up with the players in their legal fight to end the owner-imposed lockout.

The NFL Coaches Association filed a brief with the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday expressing support for the players and saying that the lockout is putting their jobs in jeopardy.

"Owners and fans increasingly demand immediate success, and coaches whose teams cannot fulfill such severe expectations face likely dismissal, which means the uprooting of families, economic dislocation, and a significantly less promising career path," lawyers for the NFLCA wrote.

No individual coaches were identified in the brief, which said that the eight new coaches hired this year face particularly daunting odds of success if the lockout is not lifted soon. The NFL grants new coaches two extra summer minicamps to get players familiar with the new staff, and the elimination of those camps puts them at a competitive disadvantage heading into the season.

"To meet management's expectations, coaches need adequate time in the offseason to prepare their players for the season ahead," the filing said. "The lockout has already interfered with the coaches' offseason plans for their players, and each day lost in preparing for the season further diminishes coaches' opportunities to prove themselves and advance their career."

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said the league was not surprised by the filing.

"The Coaches Association offices with the Players Association in Washington," Aiello wrote in an email to The Associated Press. "So this comes as no surprise."

The 8th Circuit has set a June 3 hearing to hear arguments on whether the lockout is legal. A federal judge in St. Paul, Minn., initially ruled that the lockout was illegal, but the 8th Circuit put a stay on that ruling pending the appeal.

Some coaches across the league are facing a reduction in wages and benefits during the lockout, including those employed by the Buffalo Bills, who have suspended pension payments and cut wages for all employees while the lockout is in effect.

"These income reductions are occurring amid the burdens of mortgage payments, tuition, and other life costs that do not wait for the NFL to end its lockout," the filing said.

Coaches have already lost several minicamps and the ability to institute their valued offseason workout programs, both of which get many players together starting in mid-May to prepare themselves physcially and mentally for the upcoming season. Coaches rely on those programs to get on the same page with their players, institute new playbooks or tweaks to their existing schemes and make sure that players are ready for the rigors of training camp that await in August.

AP

Jerry Jones, owner of the Dallas Cowboys, arrives at the NFL football owners meetings in Indianapolis, Tuesday, May 24, 2011.

All of that has been put on hold during the labor dispute over how to divvy up $9 billion in revenue. Mediation has been unsuccessful while each side waits to be handed some kind of leverage through the courts, meaning no minicamps, organized team activities or group workouts in front of coaches.

"Preparation is a coach's currency, and coaches rely heavily on the offseason to prepare their players for the season," the NFLCA said. "If the NFL's lockout denies coaches the necessary time with players, coaches will be significantly more limited in their ability to prepare their teams and to prove their value as coaches."

The NFLCA said no amount of financial damages could compensate for the time lost this offseason, so they asked the 8th Circuit to uphold Judge Susan Richard Nelson's injunction of the lockout to allow the players and coaches to get back to work.

"Failure at an early stage of one's career, however, can falter career aspirations for many subsequent years," the filing said. "A lockout will significantly impinge on coaches' opportunities to prove themselves and will increase the likelihood that they will suffer failure they can neither avoid nor overcome."

Phillies win in 19 innings, beat Reds, 5-4

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Infielder Wilson Valdez became the winning pitcher early Thursday when the Philadelphia Phillies needed 19 innings to outlast the Cincinnati Reds 5-4.

A dwindling crowd at Citizens Bank Park saw Raul Ibanez hit a bases-loaded sacrifice fly to decide the longest major league game of the season. It ended at 1:19 a.m. after 6 hours, 11 minutes.

The teams were set to play again Thursday at 1:05 p.m.

Valdez threw a hitless 19th inning in his first professional pitching appearance to become the first position player to become a winning pitcher since Colorado catcher Brent Mayne on Aug. 22, 2000, STATS LLC said.

Valdez threw one pitch to the backstop and hit Scott Rolen. But the Phillies' newest right-hander then retired Jay Bruce on a fly ball and got down Reds reliever Carlos Fisher (0-1) on a popup.

Fisher finally wore down when Jimmy Rollins singled to open the 19th, Domonic Brown walked and Placido Polanco sacrificed. Thousands of fans derisively chanted "Fisher! Fisher!" before he intentionally walked Ryan Howard to load the bases. Ibanez hit a fly to deep center to win it.

Bruce homered in the 10th for the Reds, then Howard went deep and tied it in the bottom half. They ended up playing the longest game in the eight-season history of the ballpark.

Marlins 7, Giants 6, 12 innings

At San Francisco, Scott Cousins scored the winning run in a hard collision with catcher Buster Posey at home in the 12th inning as Florida beat San Francisco after blowing a four-run lead in the ninth.

Emilio Bonifacio hit a short fly ball to right-center off Guillermo Mota (2-1) for the second out. Cousins tagged from third base, beating the throw from Nate Schierholtz and lowering his shoulder to slam into Posey for a clean—albeit cringing—hit. Posey lay dazed, writhing in pain and curling up in a ball for several minutes. He was helped off the field by two team trainers holding his left leg and looking stunned.

Brewers 6, Nationals 4

At Milwaukee, Zack Greinke hit a home run to put Milwaukee ahead and struck out 10 batters over seven innings in a win over Washington.

Prince Fielder drove in four runs for the Brewers, who are the hottest team in baseball over the last two weeks with 13 wins in 16 games.

Astros 2, Dodgers 1

At Houston, J.R. Towles broke out of an 0-for-32 slump with three hits, including an RBI single with two outs in the ninth inning that gave Houston a win over Los Angeles.

Brett Wallace doubled off Matt Guerrier (2-3) and after Bill Hall flied out for the second out, Towles lined a drive into center field, scoring Wallace.

Braves 4, Pirates 2, 11 innings

At Pittsburgh, Brooks Conrad hit a pinch-hit, two-run homer in the 11th inning as Atlanta topped Pittsburgh.

With pinch-runner Wilkin Ramirez on first and one out, Conrad hit a 1-2 pitch from Jeff Karstens (3-3) into a sliver of seats in right-center for his first home run of the season and fifth career pinch-hit homer.

Diamondbacks 2, Rockies 1

At Denver, Ian Kennedy tossed eight crisp innings and center fielder Chris Young robbed Ty Wigginton of a tying homer as Arizona beat Colorado.

Young drove in the go-ahead run with a bloop single in the sixth, then made his key grab in the eighth.

The Diamondbacks have won eight of their last nine to move over .500 for just the second time this season.

Mets 7, Cubs 4, 7 innings

At Chicago, Dillon Gee recovered from a poor start to throw six solid innings as New York beat wild reliever Justin Berg and Chicago in a rain-shortened game.

The game was called with two outs in the top of the seventh inning after a 41-minute delay.

Berg threw 12 pitches — all balls — while walking three batters.

Padres 3, Cardinals 1

At San Diego, Chase Headley doubled home the go-ahead run in the eighth inning to lead Mat Latos and San Diego over St. Louis.

The Cardinals had won four in a row. San Diego, which has the NL's worst home record at 8-20, scored more than two runs for the first time in nine games.

Latos (2-6) pitched eight strong innings, allowing one run and six hits while striking out seven. Heath Bell pitched a perfect ninth for his 10th save in 11 chances.

Rangers 2, White Sox 1

At Arlington, Texas, C.J. Wilson pitched into the seventh inning, Ian Kinsler's RBI single produced the deciding run as the Texas Rangers hung on to beat the Chicago White Sox 2-1 on Wednesday.

Wilson (5-3) gave up one run and five hits in 6 1-3 innings to help the Rangers win for the third time in four games. The left-hander struck out five.

Neftali Feliz issued consecutive one-out walks in the ninth, but got A.J. Pierzynski to fly out with runners on first and third for his 10th save in 12 chances as Texas took the deciding game of the three-game series.

Gavin Floyd (5-4) allowed two runs and three hits with five strikeouts and one walk in seven-plus innings and 110 pitches.

Yankees 7, Blue Jays 3

At New York, Andruw Jones hit a pair of two-run homers, Mark Teixeira also hit a two-run shot and Mariano Rivera made a milestone appearance in New York's victory over Toronto.

Rivera pitched the ninth inning in a non-save situation, the 1,000th game he's played for the Yankees. The 11-time All-Star closer became the first player in major league history to reach the plateau for one team and the 15th to make it overall.

Mariners 3, Twins 0

At Minneapolis, Erik Bedard threw six shutout innings and Franklin Gutierrez hit his first home run of the season, sending Seattle past Minnesota.

David Pauley tossed two scoreless innings in relief, Brandon League pitched a perfect ninth for his 12th save in 15 attempts and the Twins managed only seven singles on their way to their fifth shutout this season. They have the worst record in the majors at 16-32 and the fewest runs with 164.

Red Sox 14, Indians 2

At Cleveland, Jon Lester coasted to his AL-leading seventh win and Boston bludgeoned Cleveland's Mitch Talbot for seven runs in the first inning on their way to a win that was the Indians' most lopsided loss this season.

Dustin Pedroia hit a two-run homer in Boston's eruption in the first off Talbot (1-1), who was making his first start since April 11.

Orioles 9, Royals 2

At Baltimore, Adam Jones had two hits and two RBIs in an eight-run fourth inning as Baltimore beat Kansas City for its fourth straight victory.

Baltimore sent 13 batters to the plate in the fourth against Luke Hochevar (3-5), who yielded six hits, walked three and threw a wild pitch. It was the Orioles' biggest inning since an eight-run sixth against Washington on June 26, 2009. Jones hit a game-ending home run Tuesday night.

Jake Arrieta (6-2) allowed two runs and five hits in six innings, striking out seven and walking three.

Angels 4, Athletics 1

At Anaheim, California, Torii Hunter and Alberto Callaspo hit back-to-back home runs and Ervin Santana allowed one run in six solid innings as Los Angeles beat Oakland for its fourth victory in six games.

Reggie Willits had a run-scoring double for his first hit of the season, and Peter Bourjos added an RBI single. Los Angeles has won two of three in the four-game series with its upstate AL West rivals.

CNMI May Masters set to begin today

The 29th CNMI May Masters Bowling Tournament will kick off today at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Registration will start at 1:30pm, while the singles game will begin at 2pm. The doubles and team events will kick off at 4:15pm and 6:30pm, respectively.

Competition in the three events will continue tomorrow, beginning at 9am until 2pm. Then at 6pm, the women's division of the May Masters will start with participants playing in 12 games. The men's May Masters will be played on Sunday, starting at 9am.

This year's defending champions in the May Masters are Saipan's Alex Castro and Guam's Cherry Catbagan.

A group of Guam players are expected to join the three-day tournament and battle the singles, doubles, and team awards from Saipan. Raymond Angeles won last year's men's singles, while Catbagan also prevailed in the singles. Castro and Talavera paired for the doubles victory in the men's division, while Arlene Taitague and Maddison Willis won for Guam. The team event went to both Saipan teams with Richard Leong, Danny Robles, Percy Omechelang, and Rusty Musca topping the men's field, and Gina Sablan, Jerrie Vales, Gigi Zapanta, and Ron Cal ruling the women's division.

This year's May Masters is supported by IT&E, Jet Holdings/Saipan Bowling Center, Jet Holdings/Saipan Bowling Center, Budweiser, and Marpac. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Alex Castro, seen here with the championship trophy last year, will go for back-to-back May Masters crowns this weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Marquez-Pacquiao III a done deal

BOXING

MANILA, Philippines—Manny Pacquiao's confirmation, boxing pundits have long agreed, is as binding as a signed fight contract.

"Tuloy na po 'yun, abangan n'yo (It's on, wait for it)," Pacquiao said during an interview with ABS-CBN's Dyan Castillejo Sunday night.

The Filipino ring superstar was, of course, referring to his third clash with Mexican great Juan Manuel Marquez on Nov. 12 in Las Vegas.

Marquez, the WBA and WBO lightweight champion, signed the contract—which assures him a personal-high $5 million purse plus a share in pay-per-view revenues—last May 19 at Beverly Hills Hotel in Los Angeles.

AP

The Philippines' Manny Pacquiao strikes a pose with Mexico's Juan Manuel Marquez in a promotional shot for one of their two previous fights.

Pacquiao's adviser Mike Koncz is to bring the contract to Manila for the pound-for-pound king's signature. Koncz has not arrived from the United States, though.

Under the fight's financial terms, Pacquiao will get $20 million—virtually the same amount he earned in his lopsided unanimous decision victory over Shane Mosley on May 7—plus a share in PPV revenues.

In their first tussle in 2004, Pacquiao settled for a draw despite knocking Marquez down three times in the first round. They met again in 2008 at 130 pounds with Pacquiao squeezing out a split decision on the strength of a third-round knockdown.

The trilogy is set at a catch weight of 144 lb with Pacquiao's WBO welterweight title also at stake. Marquez fought and lost to Floyd Mayweather Jr. in the same catch weight in 2009.

If Marquez beats Pacquiao, a fourth fight will be held with the Mexican, who stands to receive $10 million. ***(PDI)***

4 CNMI

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3,000m steeple chase, and 4x400m relay.

The final day of the competition will feature the 10,000 run, pole vault, shot put, women's 100m and men's 110m hurdles finals, shot put non-champion, javelin finals, 200m sprint finals, long jump, 1,500m run, 400m finals.

Australia's Barry Mullins will be competition manager, while the host's Willie Fong will serve as assistant. Oceania Athletics Association Executive Director Yvonne Mullins will be in Samoa as administration delegate, while Australia's Peter Reynolds and Bill Bailey are selected technical delegate and chairperson of jury of appeals, respectively. NMA secretary general Robin Sapong is also among the technical officials appointed for the three-day meet and will be assigned to the technical information center.

TIGERS

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gers moved one out away from advancing to the finals after outfielder Tyrone Omar caught another fly ball.

Next up at bat was Keoni Lizama and he kept Wassup's hopes alive when he hit a single. However, he was left stranded to first and the game ended when Tigers second baseman Luis Ngiraikelau caught the third fly ball in the inning.

The Tigers escaped with a semis win despite playing two games in one day. They first cruised to a 12-0 win over Hilitai to book a semis ticket. Wassup earned the right to face the Tigers in the semis following a 15-4 triumph over Dial-Rent-To-Own.

In the other half of the playoff draw, TKK 2 faced Peleliu in its first playoff game and prevailed after only five innings, 16-5. While TKK 2 eased its way to the semis, Red Torch had a tougher time marching into the Final Four, pulling off a close 14-13 win over Asahi. Then in the semifinals, Red Torch ran out of flame, allowing TKK 2 an easy 14-2 victory.

HEO

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Pauli. Completing the team are senior Sebastian Bader of Austria and Sebastian Grottke of Germany, sophomores Sari Alotaibi of Jordan, Petr Michnev of the Czech Republic, and Hawaii's Gavin Morinaga, and juniors Patric Guenther of Germany and Nick Loucas of California. Former ITF and ATP tour player Stefan Pampulov is the Sea Warriors head coach.

The Sea Warriors finished the season with a 10-8 record in the Pacific West Conference and made it to NCAA Division II Championships in Florida early this month. Heo and company almost stunned No. 3 Corcordia College in the Nationals, losing the closely fought match, 4-5. The CNMI netter won all his two games in Florida.

SONICS

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78-74, despite the absence of Blue Hauz top scorer Dave Sablan.

Blue Hauz managed an early 18-12 advantage in the first period, but Madness battled back in the second quarter to pull within a basket, 33-35, at the break.

Madness' Ivan Devero and Ham Hambros delivered eight points apiece in the period.

Madness pressed on in the third quarter to tie it at 58-all with 10 minutes to go, but could not hold it together at the end.

Instead, Blue Hauz regained its grip on a slight lead and buried five pressure-packed free throws in the final minutes for the victory.

Brandon Talania paced four Blue Hauz players in double digits with 16 points, while Madness' Ivan Devero led all scorers with 19.

Blue Hauz extended its win streak to four, while Madness now holds a 1-2 record.

First Game

Sonics 87 – Lizama 24, Pagarao 20, Bahillo 14, Wong 11, Santos 8, Galarse 7, Eclevia 2, Chan 1.

Konflikt 78 – Joyner 22, Esdrelon 15, Mangali 13, Camacho 8, Gabaldon 5, Libuw 4, Tumaquip 4, Umali 3, Arreza 2, Tamayo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-17, 35-36, 57-59, 87-78

Second Game

Blue Hauz 78 – Talania 16, Tabora 14, Mateo 12, Fitial 11, Santos 7, Guiang 6, Vinas 6, Sacramento 4, Devero 2.

Rollers Madness 74 – Devero 19, Reyes 15, Hambros 12, Matagolai 10, Villacrusis 7, Camacho 5, Babauta 2, Litulimar 2, Manglona 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-12, 35-33, 58-58, 78-74.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	27	21	.563	–
Boston	27	22	.551	1/2
Tampa Bay	26	23	.531	1 1/2
Toronto	24	25	.490	3 1/2
Baltimore	23	24	.489	3 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	30	17	.638	–
Detroit	25	23	.521	5 1/2
Kansas City	22	26	.458	8 1/2
Chicago	23	28	.451	9
Minnesota	16	32	.333	14 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	26	24	.520	–
Los Angeles	26	25	.510	1/2
Seattle	24	25	.490	1 1/2
Oakland	23	27	.460	3

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	30	19	.612	–
Florida	28	19	.596	1
Atlanta	28	23	.549	3
New York	23	25	.479	6 1/2
Washington	21	28	.429	9

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	30	21	.588	–
Milwaukee	27	23	.540	2 1/2
Cincinnati	26	24	.520	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	22	26	.458	6 1/2
Chicago	21	26	.447	7
Houston	19	31	.380	10 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	27	21	.563	–
Arizona	25	24	.510	2 1/2
Colorado	24	24	.500	3
Los Angeles	22	29	.431	6 1/2
San Diego	20	30	.400	8

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 4, Pittsburgh 2, 11 innings
Milwaukee 6, Washington 4
Houston 2, L.A. Dodgers 1
San Diego 3, St. Louis 1
Philadelphia 5, Cincinnati 4, 19 innings
N.Y. Mets 7, Chicago Cubs 4 innings
Arizona 2, Colorado 1
Florida 7, San Francisco 6, 12 innings
Boston 14, Cleveland 2
N.Y. Yankees 7, Toronto 3
Tampa Bay at Detroit, ppd., rain
Seattle 3, Minnesota 0
Texas 2, Chicago White Sox 1
Baltimore 9, Kansas City 2
L.A. Angels 4, Oakland 1

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	15	138	127	435	29.0
Rose, CHI	13	124	97	366	28.2
Nowitzki, DAL	13	120	107	360	27.7
Howard, ORL	6	51	60	162	27.0
Anthony, NYK	4	33	29	104	26.0
James, MIA	12	106	76	305	25.4
Wade, MIA	12	105	88	304	25.3
Westbrook, OKC	15	117	107	355	23.7
Bryant, LAL	10	83	50	228	22.8
Randolph, MEM	13	100	87	289	22.2
Paul, NOR	6	42	39	132	22.0
Granger, IND	5	43	14	108	21.6
Aldridge, POR	6	53	19	125	20.8
Pierce, BOS	9	68	30	187	20.8
Ginobili, SAN	5	31	32	103	20.6
Parker, SAN	6	43	31	118	19.7
Allen, BOS	9	57	24	170	18.9
Johnson, ATL	12	87	34	226	18.8
Terry, DAL	13	80	41	228	17.5
Bosh, MIA	12	74	55	203	16.9

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Howard, ORL	51	81	.630
Brand, PHL	34	62	.548
Paul, NOR	42	77	.545
Bynum, LAL	57	105	.543
Allen, BOS	57	109	.523
Gasol, MEM	72	141	.511
Nowitzki, DAL	120	236	.508
Roy, POR	22	44	.500
Lawson, DEN	26	52	.500
Miller, POR	33	67	.493

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	6	27	66	93	15.5
Gasol, MEM	13	41	105	146	11.2
Garnett, BOS	9	21	77	98	10.9
Randolph, MEM	13	43	98	141	10.8
Duncan, SAN	6	16	47	63	10.5
Noah, CHI	13	60	76	136	10.5
Anthony, NYK	4	13	28	41	10.3
Camby, POR	6	18	40	58	9.7
Bynum, LAL	10	36	60	96	9.6
Horford, ATL	12	25	90	115	9.6

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, NOR	6	69	11.5
Rondo, BOS	9	86	9.6
Rose, CHI	13	104	8.0
Kidd, DAL	13	98	7.5
Iguodala, PHL	5	34	6.8
Conley, MEM	13	83	6.4
Westbrook, OKC	15	95	6.3
Holiday, PHL	5	28	5.6
Miller, POR	6	33	5.5
Parker, SAN	6	31	5.2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Capalad lifts Team Morales to title win

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Team Morales pose with their championship trophy and organizers of the 2011 Saipan Marianas Lions Club-Civic Center Inter-Color Friendship Basketball League last Sunday at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe. Team Morales defeated C-GOM in the finals, 94-76.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Playing coach White Capalad scored 28 points to lift Team Morales to a 94-76 title win over Team C-GOM in the 2011 Saipan Marianas Lions Club-Civic Center Inter-Color Friendship Basketball League last Sunday at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

Capalad knocked in 13 of his total output in the third quarter, leading Team Morales' breakaway in the second half after a close battle in the first half.

The match was back to square one after the first half, 39-all, before Team Morales, which advanced to the finals after an 85-58 rout of Armatech in the semis, pulled way with a 34-20 scoring in the third period. Capalad scored back-to-back baskets in the opening minutes of the third, then had another string of six points before ending the quarter with a triple to give Team Morales a double-digit lead, 73-59. Kae Bernardo, Gilbert Miranda, Gil Cabaddu, Ramir Santos, and Joe Aguilar also contributed in the third-quarter breakaway, chipping in four points apiece.

Despite a 12-point lead at the end of the third period, Team Morales did not rest on its laurels in the final canto, as Capalad continued to burn the hoops. He added eight more points in the payoff period to provide the killer blows for Team Morales, while three of his teammates made at least two field goals each en route to an 18-point win.

Besides Capalad, three other Team Morales players finished in double figures in scoring. Miranda had 18, while Bernardo and Cabaddu tallied 15 and 12, respectively.

J.R. Ngeskebei top-scored for Team C-GOM with 20 markers, but had only four points in the third period when Team Morales seized control of the game. Bernard Montano tallied 19, but was also limited to four markers in the third quarter.

The biggest missing link for Team C-GOM in the finals was Sonny Lerio, who was held to five points off a triple and two charities. The Team C-GOM gunner sizzled for 22 points in their 89-79 semis win over Team Joey last Saturday and connected on three triples, but had a tough shooting night in the game that counted the most.

Team Morales 94 – Capalad 28, Miranda 18, Bernardo 15, Cabaddu 12, Diyco 6, Danipog 4, Aguilar 4, Santos, Morales 3.

Team C-GOM 76 – Ngeskebei 20, Montano 19, Catalla 10, Jose 8, Tabamo 6, Tengco 6, Lerio 5, Gunnaco 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-18, 39-39, 73-59, 94-76.

IT&E Voyagers, Best Choice still frontrunners

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Docomo Hustlers pose for a team photo after shutting out D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Pirates, 7-0, at home at the Utopia Sports Bar last Tuesday in the SBA Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Jonny's Bar & Grill's IT&E Voyagers and D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Best Choice remain in front of the Saipan Billiards Association-Budweiser Open 8-Ball League's Agingan and Obyan divisions after the conclusion of last Tuesday's matchups.

IT&E Voyagers defeated X-Tream, 5-2, on the road at VFW Post 3457 and improved its overall win-loss card in the Agingan Division to 66-25 .

Sister team Buddies' Bar & Grill's IT&E Incredibles is four games back in second place at 62-29, while Utopia Sports Bar's Docomo Hustlers and Jonny's Home Boyz are tied for third place at 59-32.

Best Choice, meanwhile, remains atop the six-team Obyan Division despite getting shut out, 0-7, by IT&E Incredibles at home.

Best Choice now holds 44-47 slate, but is still six games ahead of second-ranked Fotten Palau of USSP Peleliu Club (38-53). X-Tream is in third place at 36-55.

In other results, Docomo Hustlers shut out Obyan's Pirates (25-66) of D'Pirates Bar & Grill, 7-0, at home; the Home Boyz edged Fotten Palau, 4-3, at home; and the USSP Turtles (32-59) upset Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Shark Attack (34-57), 4-3, at home. Shark Attack took the challenge with just three players.

Agingan notables include one-time 8-ball sinkers Home Boyz's Mario Diola and IT&E Voyagers' Jojo Talibong, while IT&E Incredibles' Chester Hamoy ran the rack for the sixth time this season.

Obyan notables include one-time 8-ball sinkers Nong Detdon of Shark Attack, X-Tream's George Lizardo and Fotten Palau's Ron Chisato, along with X-Tream's Chester Cuento who ran the rack a division-best two times this season; seven other players have ran the table once.

Brewers knock out Masters, 10-6

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Tan Holdings Brewers mounted a six-run comeback in the sixth inning to beat the Masters, 10-6, in their do-or-die Saipan Major League baseball game last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Brew Crew completed the rally with two hits and a trio of back-breaking triples.

With the win, the Brewers now join the Shell Fielders, St. Michael's Rangers, and Sen. Crisostomo D-9ers in the SML playoffs.

The Masters built an early 4-2 lead in the opening frame. Masters' Greg Camacho busted an RBI single, Jess Mesa a two-RBI double, and the another run scored off a wild pitch.

Brewers managed to get two runs back in the bottom frame off a sacrifice fly by John Taitano and an RBI base rip by Byron Kaipat.

After a quiet second, both teams each added a run in the third inning off errors.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

Tan Holdings Brewers' Kelvin Kapileo, pictured in this file photo, batted 2-for-4 with two RBIs, two runs, and a stolen base in last Monday's SML knockout game against the Masters at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Masters then pulled ahead, 6-3, off a fielder's choice in the fifth, but the Brewers' bats awoke after the substitution in the sixth inning as they shot ahead, 9-6.

The first two batters reached off a bean ball and an error that set up an RBI single by Mike Taitano, followed by a two-RBI triple by John Taitano and a pair of RBI triples by Kelvin Kapileo and Kaipat to go with a final RBI base smash from Manny Sablan.

The Masters were shocked from that point and managed just two base runners for the remainder of the game, while the Brewers added a run in the seventh off an error.

Winning pitcher Ton Rogolifoi went all nine and remained solid after the stretch. He gave up three earned runs off six hits and a walk with three strikeouts.

Kelvin Kapileo batted 2-for-4 with two-RBIs, two runs, and a stolen base, while Kaipat swung 3-for-5 with two RBIs and a run.

Football festival kicks off tomorrow

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will culminate the spring youth league with the traditional football festival this Saturday at two separate venues.

The U6, U8, and U10 festival will be played at the Koblerville Elementary School from 8am to 3pm, while the U12 age group will have their friendly matches at the Saipan Southern High School from 12pm to 4pm.

The U8 division will play six-a-side format with each match divided into two 10-minutes halves. Nine teams will be playing in the U8 division and squads are from the six clubs on Saipan—MP United, Independents, Paire, Tan Holdings, Shirley's, and Matansa.

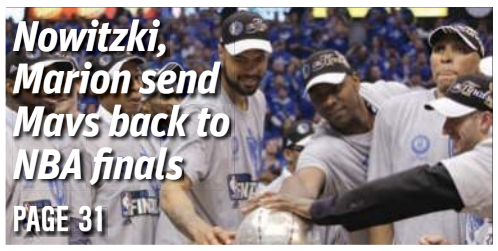
In the U10 division, there will be only eight teams—Paire 1 and 2, Tan Holdings 1 and 2, Shirley's, MP United 1 and 2, and Matansa. Each squad will play three games as the eight teams are divided into two pools. Format is eight-a-side and teams will also play in two 10-minute halves.

The U12 division has the most teams with 13 and games will be played in two fields. Playing in Field 1 at Southern are Pool A's Paire 2, Matansa T1, Shirley's, and MP United 2. Pool B's Matansa G-1, Paire 1, MP United 1, Matansa G-2, and Tan Holdings 1 will play in Field 2. Each pool will have a round-robin format and matches will be eight a side and will also have two 10-minute halves.

Before the festival, the four age groups played for more than two months at the various fields on island. Matches were not competitive and scores were not recorded, as NMIFA wanted to promote a friendly competition, while improving the skills of youth players. Only teams in the boys and girls U15 and boys U18 played for the championships with MP United winning both the boys U15 and U18 age groups and Matansa prevailing in the girls U15. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tan Holdings' Edward Joon Cho kicks the ball while a Paire goalie defends during the youth fall football festival at the San Antonio Elementary School. This Saturday, the spring festival will take place at Koberville Elementary School and Saipan Southern High School.


Nowitzki, Marion send Mavs back to NBA finals
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Sports

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4 CNMI athletes off to Oceania tourney

Benneth

Ichihara

Kenty

Rangamar

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics selected four athletes who will represent the CNMI to the 2011 Oceania Regional Championships in Apia, Samoa.

The list includes Sylvan Rangamar, Ryan Ichihara, Clayton Kenty, and Yvonne Bennett. The three male athletes have already confirmed their participation to the championships, while NMA is still waiting for Bennett's decision. Bennett is still in Boise, Idaho, and just recently shattered the CNMI record in the 400m run when she competed for the Bronco in the 2011 Western Athletic Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

Rangamar will be joining the discus and shot put competitions, while Kenty will be participating in the 110m and 400m hurdles. Ichihara and Bennett are entered in sprints with the latter joining the 100m and 400m runs and the former competing in the 100m and 200m races. Ichihara will also try his luck in the long jump event.

The CNMI bets are scheduled to leave Saipan on June 17, as the tournament in Apia will run from June 21 to 23.

The first day of the championship on June 21 will have the women's and men's discuss finals, high jump, 400m hurdles, 100m run heats and finals, javelin non-champion, triple jump non-champion, 5,000m run, and 4x400m relay. The opening day of the Oceania tournament will start at 1pm and end at 5:30pm.

In Day 2, events lined are hammer throw, long jump, 200m, women's 100m and men's 110m hurdles heats, 800m run, discus, triple jump, 400m run heats,

See 4 CNMI on Page 34

Heo to play in Europe

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After his decent debut in NCAA Division II tennis, former CNMI top junior player Ji Hoon Heo will be competing in tournaments in Europe this summer.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune,* the 19-year-old player said he will be joining Hawaii Pacific University teammate Wilhelm Irwe in Europe for a series of tournaments.

"I'll be in Europe with my teammate Wilhelm Irwe from July 5 to Aug. 5. We will also meet with our other tennis teammates. I'm not completely sure what tournaments I'll be playing, but it will be money tournaments, as well as a few futures in Austria or Eastern Europe," Heo said.

The tournament in Europe will not be Heo's first event outside the CNMI and Hawaii, as he had already competed in Korea, New Caledonia, Fiji, New Zealand, and Australia in the past. Heo said the Europe trip will help him prepare for his next season with HPU.

"I'm excited for the summer and I hope it will prep me up for the next season with HPU," the Marianas High School graduate said.

The CNMI netter was one of the five freshmen included on the Sea Warriors' men's tennis roster this year. The four others were New Zealand's Ari Davis, Sweden's Irwe, Latvia's Matiss Libietis, and Nevada's J.C.

See HEO on Page 34

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ji Hoon Heo, seen here playing for Hawaii Pacific University in the NCAA Division II tournament early this year, will be competing in Europe this summer.

Tigers clinch second finals berth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Tigers arranged a rematch against TKK 2 after pulling off a 10-8 semis win over Wassup in the 2011 Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow-Pitch League last Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

TTK 2, which gained the first finals berth after a 14-2 rout of Red Torch in the other semis tiff, and the Tigers will battle for the championship this Sunday. The finals will be a best-of-three affair. The two finalists also met for the pennant crown two weekends ago with TKK 2 eking out an 11-10 victory in the tiebreak.

The Tigers will be facing off TKK 2 after withstanding Wassup's rally in the top of the seventh inning with their tough defense in the homestretch.

The Tigers led, 10-5, after six complete innings, but were threatened when Oliver Secharmidal led off for Wassup in the top of the seventh with a solo homer and Kyle Kaipat followed it up with a two-run homer.

With their lead sliced to two, 8-10, the Tigers made two successive defensive stops to halt Wassup's run. Pitcher Jerry Deleon Guerrero caught a fly ball for the first out and the Ti-

See TIGERS on Page 34

Tyrone Omar, seen here picking up a grounder, went 3-for-4 in the Tigers' 12-0 playoff win over Hilitai in the Belau league last Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield. The Tigers will be playing TKK 2 in the finals this Sunday.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sonics rally past Konflikt, 87-78

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Sonics bagged their second win in a row with a 30-point fourth quarter to upend Konflikt, 87-78, in the first game of the QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup Invitational League Wednesday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Konflikt managed an early 17-16 lead after the first 10 minutes and converted seven free throws in the second period to maintain a slim 36-35 edge at the half.

Konflikt's Elmer Esdrelon and Jawn Joyner teamed up for 15 markers in the first frame, while Sonics' Lerio Pagarao and Pedro Lizama combined for 19.

The game was tight virtually all the way to the end and was still a one-possession game after the third quarter, 59-57, in favor of Konflikt.

Then in the fourth, Sonics' Lizama exploded for 12 points to help the Sonics kick down the door at the close. He finished with a game-high 24, while Joyner turned in 22 on the short end.

Esdrelon, who is known for turning it on at crunch time, was held to only three points in the fourth. Konflikt dropped its last two games after starting the season with a pair of wins.

In the second game, Rollers Madness battled back against undefeated Blue Hauz and tied the game at 58-all heading into the final period, but could not pull off the comeback and fell,

See SONICS on Page 34